

AMBI MID-TERM EVALUATION 2021:

SUMMARY OF 2019-2020 ACTIVITIES AND
ADVICE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

MAY 2021



ARCTIC COUNCIL



Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna



Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative

Acknowledgements

CAFF Designated Agencies:

- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Faroese Museum of Natural History
- Finnish Ministry of the Environment
- Ministry for Agriculture, Self Sufficiency, Energy and Environment, Government of Greenland
- Icelandic Institute of Natural History
- Norwegian Environment Agency
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service

CAFF Permanent Participant Organizations:

- Aleut International Association (AIA)
- Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC)
- Gwich'in Council International (GCI)
- Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)
- Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)
- Saami Council

This report should be cited as: CAFF (2021). AMBI Mid-term Evaluation 2021: Summary of 2019-2020 activities and advice for implementation. Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna International Secretariat: Akureyri, Iceland. ISBN 978-9935-431-93-6

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AMBI MID-TERM EVALUATION 2021:

Summary of 2019-2020 activities and advice for implementation

LIST OF ADVICE FOR AMBI IMPLEMENTATION BEYOND 2021

1. Arctic countries to continue to support and participate in AMBI (US, Canada, Russia, Norway) and increase additional Arctic country technical engagement across Flyways, as appropriate.
 - Denmark/Greenland, Sweden, Iceland, Canada engagement in relevant African Eurasian Flyway actions, in particular, Objectives 2 and 4, as appropriate. Engagement of these countries in these two Objectives could help advance actions in the Flyway.
 - Build on Russian engagement in the African Eurasian Flyway to capitalize on AMBI's unique global position to engage Russia in all relevant flyways: African Eurasian, Circumpolar and Central and East Asian Flyways. Russian engagement is important for all activities in these Flyways, or approximately 80% of all AMBI Actions. In particular, scientific cooperation and data sharing on waterbird monitoring is essential.
 - Build closer cooperation with the Circumpolar Seabird Expert Group (CBird), and its members, where all Arctic countries have representation. CBird is collaborating on five of 14 Actions in the Circumpolar Flyway (about 42% of Flyway actions) and leading two of those five actions. Many CBird projects are important contributions to the fulfillment of AMBI implementation, but have extensive other contexts and aims as well and do not necessarily address the scope of actions in the AMBI work plan. As such, AMBI works with the CBird expert group, its members, and other colleagues as required to address additional projects to further fulfill AMBI Action implementation. This cooperation needs to be better defined and communicated.
 - Increase engagement with the International Snowy Owl Working Group (ISOWG) in the Circumpolar Flyway to advance 14% of Circumpolar Flyway Actions
2. Ensure that AMBI priority species, their habitats and conservation issues are better integrated into relevant national and multilateral processes and activities, including:
 - Better integration of AMBI species, habitats and conservation issues into national strategy development, bilateral relations, national/international development priorities, funding priorities, protected area designation, etc.
 - Better integration of AMBI to provide input, as appropriate, into relevant global mechanisms and their associated processes, such as: Convention of Migratory Species, Convention of Biological Diversity, European Union, World Heritage Committee, etc.
3. Increase institutional engagement with Arctic Council Observers
 - Build on existing good cooperation with Observers including:
 - India, China, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Japan in the Central and East Asian Flyways
 - UK, Spain, Netherlands, Germany, France in the African Eurasian Flyway
 - Mexico in the African Eurasian Flyway
 - France, UK, Netherlands, and Japan via CAFF's Circumpolar Seabird Expert Group (CBird). Finalize cooperative agreements with Spain, Republic of Korea and China to improve opportunities for deeper partnerships and develop agreement with India and other entities as required.

4. **Develop a sustainable funding model to support AMBI implementation in general with an emphasis on funding Global and Flyway coordinators' salary.**
 - Without additional funding and coordinator salary, most AMBI actions are difficult to achieve.
5. **Work to more equitably engage Arctic Indigenous Peoples in AMBI on issues of interest and relevance to Permanent Participants, in particular,**
 - increase Permanent Participants (PP) involvement in AMBI Flyway Committees, Steering Groups and activities,
 - increase inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in AMBI project and implementation actions (design, development, methodology, etc.),
 - increase interaction and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples at the national level to assist in AMBI development and implementation,
 - increase resourcing for Indigenous Peoples' engagement in AMBI
6. **Find and create opportunities to engage the diplomatic/political mechanisms of Arctic and non-Arctic states to support and fund transboundary conservation issues affecting AMBI species.**
 - This would reinforce AMBI cooperative actions in and amongst Arctic States, Arctic Council Observer States and non-Arctic states
 - Leverage funding and diplomatic interventions from sources not usually available to flyway conservation initiatives, e.g., opportunities linked to Foreign Ministries and Embassies
 - The success of engaging beyond technical expertise achieved good progress in the first phase of AMBI, for example; in 2016 the Norwegian Embassy in Singapore supported an AMBI meeting in cooperation with Singapore; in 2018, there was high-level attendance from the Finnish Arctic Council Chairmanship, US State Department and Arctic Athabaskan Council at an AMBI meeting in Hainan, China, supported by the USFWS and China; in 2014 the Norwegian Embassy in Beijing supported a meeting in cooperation with China to discuss World Heritage Site recommendations in the Yellow Sea. Additional opportunities are needed to engage high-level actors in AMBI implementation actions moving forward.
7. **Identify a process to advance engagement with non-Arctic countries outside of the Arctic Council structure that are important to achieve AMBI actions (i.e., countries in Latin America, Southeast Asia, West Africa, and Australia and New Zealand).**
 - In the African Eurasian Flyway, Action 1.1 pertains to Bijagos World Heritage Site nomination and is dependent on engagement with Guinea Bissau and others in West Africa and in the Wadden Sea. This action represents just 12.5% of Flyway actions, but is disproportionately one of the more substantial actions with strong Flyway Committee interest and engagement.
 - In the Americas Flyway, implementation of Actions 4.2, 5.1, 5.3, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 7.1 and 7.2 have components that require engagement with Latin American countries and organizations, and Actions 4.1 and 6.1 can only be implemented in Latin America. Together these represent 60% of Flyway actions.
 - In the Central and East Asian Flyway, many actions under Objective 3 would benefit from engagement with Southeast Asian countries and Australia and New Zealand, in particular, Actions 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, and 3.9. This represents one-quarter of actions under this Objective.
8. **Facilitate collaboration between global flyways**
 - AMBI may be able to play a unique and strengthening global role to better connect efforts across Flyways for the benefit of Arctic-breeding migratory birds
9. **Make changes to the AMBI Work Plan 2019-2023 as identified during the mid-term evaluation process to better reflect and respond to refined understandings and/or new opportunities to promote implementation in a changing conservation context, including:**
 - Specific language changes to Actions
 - Addition of one priority species in the African Eurasian Flyway (Common Eider) and the Central and East Asian Flyways (Whimbrel)
 - Flyway title language change from East Asian-Australasian Flyway to Central and East Asian Flyways, and
 - Simplify the AMBI evaluation process for future reporting

TOP AMBI ACHIEVEMENTS

AMBI has been a catalyst to increase support and understanding of key issues and actions to benefit Arctic-breeding birds. Reasons for these successes include coordinator support, funding to support implementation, and the enthusiasm and dedication of partners in Arctic States, non-Arctic Observer States, Observer Organizations and other organizations.

1. Promoting on the Midcontinent Shorebird Conservation Initiative (MSCI) within the Americas Flyway to raise the importance of the midcontinent region to shorebird populations and produce a strategy similar to those previously developed for the Atlantic and Pacific Flyways, addressing a major flyway conservation gap
2. Advancing the understanding of the impacts of plastics on shorebirds and seabirds, and developing next steps and advice to improve knowledge and mitigate harm
3. Cooperating with Observer states to encourage the inclusion of AMBI species in their national processes and programs. Examples include:
 - a. India has included four AMBI priority species in its *National Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Birds and their Habitats along the Central Asian Flyway* (2018-2023), leading to Single Species Plan developments for the Curlew Sandpiper, Great Knot, Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit
 - b. China is updating its list of protected species under the *People's Republic of China Wild Animal Protection Law*, and has proposed to add the Lesser White-fronted Goose and Great Knot to “level 2” and Spoon-billed Sandpiper to “level 1” protection. This process is ongoing, with final decisions pending.
 - c. Japan held a Dunlin workshop in January 2020 with the US and Russia to better discuss the species conservation status, identify knowledge gaps, and discuss future research needs. Action items from the meeting including colour-flagging and DNA analysis to identify populations migrating through and wintering in Japan. Japan has also supported the inclusion of AMBI priority shorebird species in a research project conducted in Vietnam, and developed a symposium on Dunlin conservation for the EAAF Shorebird Science Meeting.
4. Increasing engagement with the Indian government and Bombay Natural History Society, including attending and presenting at Indian led international conferences and planning for a cooperative project with Russian colleagues involving satellite tracking priority species, surveying priority habitats in India for AMBI species, and expert exchange. Implementation of these efforts support activities in the Central Asian Flyway (host to some of the least studied and understood populations of shorebirds) and species prioritised in the Central and East Asian Flyways, as well as increases Arctic Council cooperation and ties with India.
5. Promoting SEATRACK (<http://www.seapop.no/en/seatrack/>), a Norwegian project to map the non-breeding distribution of seabirds that breed in colonies in the North Atlantic is advancing well in Phase II and expanding to include Canada and Greenland in addition to locations in Russia, Norway, the United Kingdom, the Faroe Islands and Iceland. SEATRACK has collected a significant amount of new tracking data on seabirds in the North Atlantic Ocean, representing a valuable input to many international processes and AMBI Objectives, and improving the knowledge base for sustainable and comprehensive spatial planning and marine management. The project is under continuous development and its funding is pending to continue after 2022. At the end of the year, a dedicated volume of the scientific journal Marine Ecology Progress Series will present some key results from SEATRACK Phase I. Objectives in the AMBI Work Plan have helped support the development and funding for SEATRACK, which has become an important information tool for Arctic migratory seabird conservation.

TOP REASONS FOR THE ABOVE ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Increased understanding of the value of a flyway perspective in both data collection, research and conservation/management
2. Increased understanding of AMBI and its objectives to conserve Arctic-breeding migratory species by working with countries outside of the Arctic.
3. Engaged and enthusiastic partners in Arctic and non-Arctic countries who recognize the importance of AMBI priority species and the connections that migratory birds make between non-Arctic and Arctic countries
4. Successful and compelling funding applications
5. Facilitation, timely response, and reporting of dedicated coordinators (global and flyway)

TOP BARRIERS TO AMBI IMPLEMENTATION

1. Lack of dedicated program funding allows implementation to reach a certain point, but not extend beyond existing capacity and programs. This at least partially explains why just over three-quarters of AMBI actions have achieved some level of progress but are not yet “on track”. Activities that have received dedicated funding are more likely to be on track (for example, actions pertaining to plastics and the Midcontinental Shorebird Conservation Initiative).
2. Difficulty in accessing the political and diplomatic mechanisms of Arctic countries limits AMBI’s ability to deepen transboundary cooperation with existing Observer states and engage additional states needed to implement AMBI actions (i.e., Latin America, West Africa, and Southeast Asia). This affects, to varying degrees, all AMBI Actions focussed on areas outside of the Arctic.
3. Reduced travel, meetings, potential funding and more implications arising from the COVID-19 global pandemic impedes momentum and engagement on AMBI implementation. This currently affects planned and pending meetings affecting implementation in all Flyways. The pandemic has also spurred legislation (in China and Vietnam) suspending the wildlife trade, which seeks to address some concerns around illegal hunting.
4. Lack of consistent, reliable funding for coordinators results in staffing insecurity and a disproportionate amount of time and focus on raising external funds rather than focusing on AMBI implementation.
5. Implementation of some AMBI Actions address sensitive issues and require a change in common practice, which is difficult to achieve in a short time frame and would to some extent require a wider socio-economic approach (e.g., illegal hunting and mist net use).

STATUS ON SUPPORTIVE ACTIONS NECESSARY FOR AMBI PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION 2019-2020

Note these are supportive actions to help implementation, rather than actions identified in the AMBI Work Plan 2019-2023. No graphics have been produced to highlight progress of supportive actions. See accompanying AMBI Mid-term Evaluation Excel tracking table “overview” tab for more information.

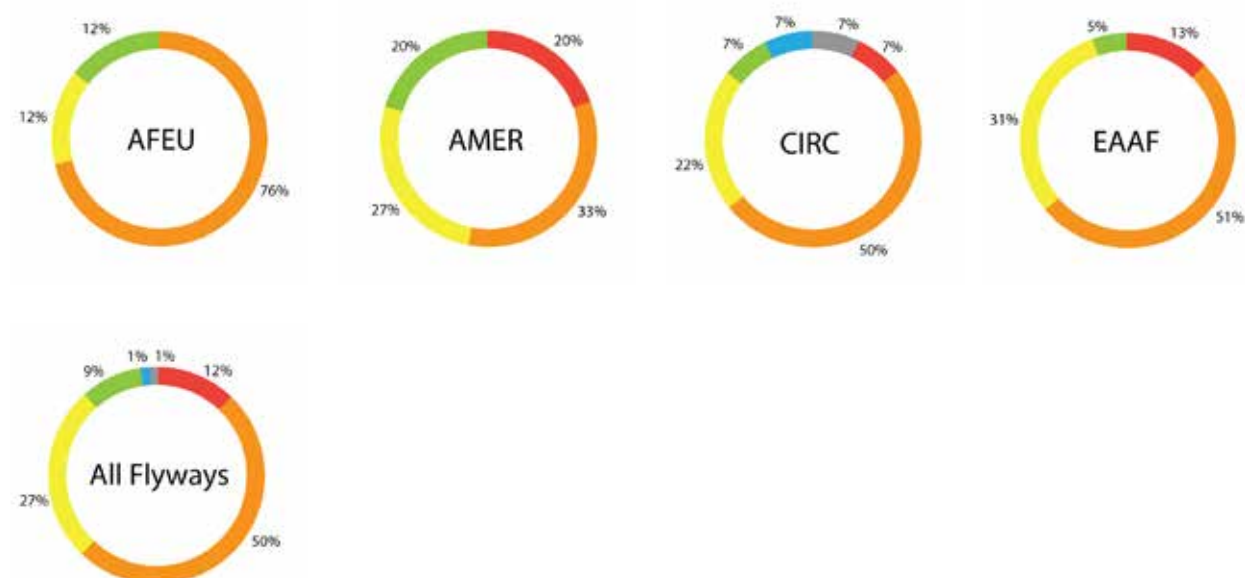
SUPPORTIVE ACTION	OVERALL STATUS (SEPT 2020)	NOTES
Improve conservation status of Arctic birds	In progress	Too early to tell if AMBI actions have led to difference in conservation status, but are confident priority species and major drivers of population change are receiving more attention at national and international levels
Ongoing implementation of Arctic Biodiversity Assessment	On track	Similar progress across all Flyways
Support existing conservation initiatives	In progress	Differences between Flyways with most “in progress”. Most advanced implementation in the Circumpolar Flyway.
Increased awareness about illegal killing/hunting	Some progress	Differences between Flyways. Extensive implementation in EAAF, with establishment of the EAAFP Illegal Killing Taking and Trade Task Force (established in previous AMBI phase) a first step. A lot of engagement in the Americas Flyway, particularly in Caribbean and northeastern South America, but AMBI only tangentially involved.
Increased emphasis on cross-border enforcement	Reporting unavailable	Did not receive any feedback to date on this item. Potential to remove this action from future evaluation reporting.
Increased awareness of AMBI species and issues in national legislation/activities/programs	In progress	The inclusion of the Buff breasted sandpiper in AMBI has helped secure additional program funding in the US (i.e., mid continental work). India’s National Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Birds and their Habitats along the Central Asian Flyway (2018-2023) includes Great Knot, Red knot, Bar-tailed Godwit and Curlew Sandpiper for Single Species Action Plan development. China in the process of updating the list of protected species under the <i>People’s Republic of China Wild Animal Protection Law</i> , adding the Lesser White-fronted Goose and Great Knot to “level 2” and Spoon-billed Sandpiper to “level 1” protection, with further consultation and decisions pending. Dunlin low survival highlighted in Alaska and extensive work to learn migratory pathways in EAAF. Also Japan has focused on this species and is leading the flyway approach to conservation.
Increased diplomatic discussions of AMBI species and issues	Some progress	Increase in diplomacy has at least some progress but many achievements are from previous years of AMBI implementation.
Increased awareness of AMBI issues in international cooperative bodies, agreements and conventions	In progress	Consistent and similar progress across all Flyways.
Increased awareness of specific sites of importance to AMBI species	Some progress	Especially in the EAAF and AMER (in EAAF via EAAFP Network Sites and AMER via WHSRN site network).

SUPPORTIVE ACTION	OVERALL STATUS (SEPT 2020)	NOTES
Increased cooperation with Arctic Council Observers and non-Arctic Council Observer states/ organizations in Arctic-breeding migratory bird issues	In progress	AC Observer engagement underway. More work needed to advance non-Arctic Council Observer countries in Latin America, Southeast Asia and West Africa.
Increased participation of Observer and non-Arctic states/ organizations at meetings focusing on Arctic-breeding migratory bird issues	On track	COVID 19 has impacted ability to host/attend meetings, but of those held to date, good progress has been made.
An increase in meetings held in non-Arctic countries on Arctic-breeding migratory bird issues	In progress	COVID 19 has impacted ability to host/attend meetings
An increase in Ministerial and SAO involvement in Arctic-breeding migratory bird issues	In progress	Consistent across Flyways.
An increase in equitable engagement of Arctic Indigenous Peoples	Some progress	Differences in engagement across Flyways, and none currently meet PP standards of engagement. More engagement needed at international (CAFF/AMBI program level) and at national level (implementation actions). Recent engagements with PPs and AMBI Coordinators have increased this understanding.
An increase in AMBI-raised and/or leveraged funding / support for migratory bird conservation and research	In progress	Various successes in Flyways including Americas Flyway: NMBCA, Circumpolar: PSI and advanced discussions in Central and East Asian Flyway and African Eurasian Flyway
Support the sharing of knowledge, experiences and lessons learned across flyways	Planned	
Increased knowledge and information generated on AMBI priority species and conservation issues	In progress	

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF AMBI ACTIONS 2019-2020

Information derived from the accompanying AMBI Mid-term Evaluation Excel tracking table. Please see each individual Flyway tab for more information. Figures accurate as of February 2021 and subject to change.

STATUS ON ACTIONS (AS OF JULY 2020)	AFEU	AMER	CIRC	EAAF	ALL FLYWAYS
Reporting unavailable: unable to reach colleagues	-	-	1	-	1
No action: no activities or major discussions to implement the action are underway	-	3	1	5	9
Some progress: preliminary actions and discussions are taking place to implement the action	6	5	7	20	38
In progress: advanced discussions, actions and planning are underway to implement the action	1	4	3	12	20
On track: implementation is underway with activities funded and progressing satisfactorily	1	3	1	2	7
Completed: implementation action is completed as described in the work plan	-	-	1	-	1
Total actions in work plan	8	15	14	39	76



CAUTIONARY NOTE OF TAKING CREDIT

A large portion of actions that contribute to AMBI implementation are conducted by Arctic states, Observers, organizations and others, in many cases independent of AMBI. AMBI has tried to identify these contributions that are directly linked to AMBI activities in the Mid-Term Evaluation process, but a full account is difficult to achieve. AMBI acknowledges that other groups have been the implementing body in many cases. It would not be justified in these cases for AMBI to take credit for this programming. However, in many cases, AMBI has played an important role in advancing and expanding awareness and action, and integrating issues identified in the work plan into other processes.

OVERVIEW OF DIRECT FUNDING FOR AMBI IMPLEMENTATION 2019-2020

Please note the following table identifies, where possible, direct funding contributions to AMBI implementation that have been either received/managed via the CAFF Secretariat, or have been identified as direct financial contributions by states/organizations. It is impossible to fully account for funding contributions to AMBI due to the high level of in-kind support and implementation actions delivered in national/sub-national programs that contribute to AMBI implementation. AMBI thanks those individuals, organizations and states for their continued in-kind support that is not identified below.

SOURCE	MANAGING FUNDS	AMOUNT (USD)	FOCAL FLYWAY	TYPE OF EXPENSE	DATE RECEIVED
Arctic Council Project Support Instrument	CAFF Secretariat	113,000 (100,000 Euros)	CIRC	Implementation: Plastics project (CIRC Action 4.1)	2019
Canada (ECCC)	CAFF Secretariat	18,760 (25,000 CAD)	Overall	Coordinator (salary)	2020/2021 (pending delivery)
East Asian-Australasian Flyway Small Grants Program	Russian researchers	5,000	EAAF	Implementation: illegal harvest project in Sakhalin (EAAF Action 3.1)	2020
East Asian-Australasian Flyway Small Grants Program	Russian researchers	5,000	EAAF	Implementation: illegal harvest project in Kamchatka (CEAF Action 3.1)	2020
Finland (MOE)	CAFF Secretariat	8,000	Overall	Coordination (salary)	2019
IASC/Rannís	CAFF Secretariat	2,600	AMER	CAFF/IASC Fellow (AMER Action 5.2)	2020
Knobloch Family Foundation	US researchers (USFWS, Texas A&M)	103,000	AMER	Conduct Buff-breasted Sandpiper tracking through Texas Coast to develop species distribution model to help identify important sites for conservation	2019
NEFCO	CAFF Secretariat	5,000	AFEU and EAAF	Communication	2019
Netherlands (MFA)	CAFF Secretariat	18,378 (15,427 Euros)	AFEU	Implementation: Russian Arctic status and trends (AMER Action 2.1)	2020 (pending delivery)
Sweden (SEPA)	CAFF Secretariat	14,000	Overall	Coordination (salary)	2019
United States (USFWS)	CAFF Secretariat	40,000	Overall	Coordination (salary)	2019
United States (USFWS)	CAFF Secretariat/Manomet	25,000	Overall	Coordination (salary)	2020 (pending delivery)
United States (USFWS)	CAFF Secretariat/Manomet	15,000	AMER	Coordination (salary)	2019
United States (USFWS)	CAFF Secretariat/Manomet	15,000	AMER	Coordination (salary)	2020
United States (USFWS)	CAFF Secretariat/Manomet	5,000	EAAF	Pending allocation	2020 (pending delivery)
United States (USFWS): Neo-tropical Migratory Birds Conservation Act Grant	Manomet	149,236	AMER	Implementation: Midcontinent Shorebird Initiative support (AMER Action 7.2). Coordination: small amount to support AMER coordinator	2020 (pending delivery)
TOTAL		426,374			

The vast majority (over 84%) of this funding is the result of three successful funding applications to 1) advance plastics work in the Circumpolar Flyway (from Arctic Council PSI with application led by CAFF Secretariat), 2) continue to advance development of the Midcontinent Shorebird Conservation Initiative (NMBCA with application led by Manomet), and 3) for US colleagues to conduct Buff-breasted sandpiper tracking. It is anticipated that in 2020/2021 an additional application will be submitted to the Arctic Council PSI to advance implementation in the EAAF with a focus on better understanding the presence and effects of contaminants in shorebirds in the Russian Arctic and advance understanding of illegal hunting, i.e., the production, distribution and use of mist nets in the Flyway. Regarding the economic analysis of mist net production and use, it is important to coordinate with the global effort under CMS on this topic after a decision was adopted at COP13 to produce a global mist net situation analysis.

Clearly more extensive funding is needed to implement AMBI more comprehensively, and an increased effort from diverse partners would support that activity.

Ongoing funding discussions with:

- Germany to support a Russian Arctic workshop in Salekhard, advancing AFEU Action 2.1
- A coalition of parties coordinated by the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) to apply to the German IKI funding body to advance work in the East Atlantic Flyway (including partnership and discussion with Russia)
- Netherlands to support Russian status and trends report with climate analysis, advancing African Eurasian Flyway Action 2.1 and 2.2
- Spain to support an African Eurasian Flyway coordinator position
- UK consulting internally on how to support advancement of Bijagós nomination, advancing African Eurasian Flyway Action 1.1

OVERVIEW OF AMBI RELATED AND SUPPORTIVE EVENTS 2019-2020

LOCATION	YEAR	EVENT	FLYWAY
Panama	2019	Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Meeting: Midcontinent Flyway Shorebird Conservation Strategy Planning Workshop, and sessions	AMER
Panama	2019	Symposium of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Meeting:	AMER
Germany	2019	IKI funding partner workshop (Russian AMBI Chair involvement)	AFEU
India	2019	International Conference on Wetlands and Migratory Waterbirds of the Asian Flyways: plenary addresses and sessions	EAAF
India	2020	Convention on Migratory Species COP13 side events and meetings	AFEU/ EAAF
Russia	2019	Plastic Pollution and Seabirds in the Russian Arctic Workshop	CIRC
Iceland	2019	Plastics and Seabirds Workshop	CIRC
Norway	2019	SEATRACK 2019 Workshop	CIRC
Online (Republic of Korea host)	2020	East Asian-Australasian Flyway Shorebird Science Meeting	EAAF
Online	2020	AEWA European Seaduck IWG	AFEU

UPCOMING AND PENDING EVENTS

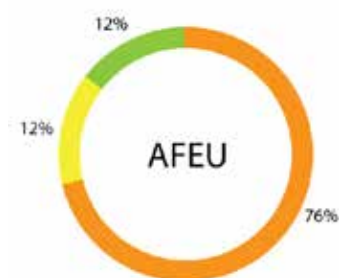
Please note that due to COVID-19 upcoming events are tentative and subject to change.

LOCATION	YEAR	EVENT	TYPE OF INVOLVEMENT	SUPPORT NEEDED	FLYWAY
Salekhard, Russia	2021 TBC	Russian Arctic workshop	Organize and host in cooperation with partners	\$50,000 USD Funding being discussed with Russia and Germany Funding needed to support Global Coordinator attendance	Central and East Asian
Brisbane, Australia	2022	EAAFP MOP	Participate/attend, organize supportive events and meetings that advance implementation in particular with EAAFP Task Forces and Working Groups	Funding needed to support AMBI Global Coordinator attendance AMBI Chair is also Russian Federation representative to EAAFP and will attend. Encourage CAFF Executive Secretary and/or Chair to attend.	Central and East Asian
Online	2021	North Atlantic Murre Harvest Workshop (hosted by CBird partners)	Participate	AMBI Steering Group representative from Canada and CAFF Secretariat will attend.	Circumpolar
Online	March 15-18, 2021	CBird Annual Meeting	Participate	AMBI Coordinator(s) and AMBI plastics experts	Circumpolar
Pending	2021?	IKI funding partner workshop	Russian participation	Funding for AMBI Chair to attend	African Eurasian
Pending (South America)	2021	Several workshops/ meetings to advance Midcontinent Shorebird Conservation Initiative	Co-organize/co-host with partners (countries and organizations)	Funding secured via USFWS and Manomet to host workshops and meetings.	Americas
Pending (North America)	2021	Several workshops/ meetings to advance Midcontinent Shorebird Conservation Initiative	US and Canada led/ organized	Funding secured to host workshops and meetings.	Americas
Pending	2022	Arctic Biodiversity Congress	Session in program, SG/FC meeting and/or workshop	Funding needed to support AMBI Global Coordinator attendance	All
Puerto Madryn, Argentina	2021	Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Meeting	All things shorebird in Western Hemisphere, likely sessions on Midcontinental Flyway, plastics, hunting, etc.	Funding needed to support AMBI global and AMER coordinator to attend	Americas

TOP NEXT STEPS TO ADVANCE IMPLEMENTATION

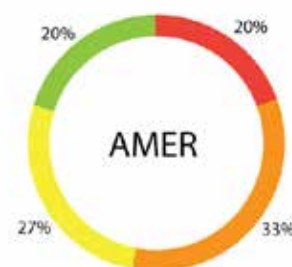
1. Identify and secure diverse and stable sources of funding for coordination
2. Identify and secure funding to implement priority AMBI actions
3. Explore funding and diplomatic interventions from sources not typically available for Flyway conservation initiatives (i.e., Ministries of Foreign Affairs)
4. Arctic State leaders to push for AMBI's continued success: active Arctic state participation in all Flyways, continued cooperation with Observers, exploration of increased/diversified funding opportunities, examination of diplomatic options
5. Advance the circumpolar harvest project and use it as an example for AMBI to more equitably engage Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge in AMBI work and apply lessons elsewhere in the program
6. Facilitate cooperation between flyways on issues of common concern
7. Engage additional non-Arctic states necessary to advance AMBI implementation

AFRICAN EURASIAN FLYWAY (AFEU): SUMMARY



OBJECTIVE/ACTION		STATUS	NOTES
1. Improve conservation and management of shorebird sites throughout the African-Eurasian Flyway			
1.1	Secure intertidal habitat of Arctic-breeding shorebirds in Bijagós Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau	Some progress	Improving communication between Guinea Bissau and AMBI partners. Seeking clarification on how AMBI can help and funding to advance implementation.
1.2	Ensure identification and documentation of key sites for shorebirds in available format as a tool for national/international sustainable site management	Some progress	Norway/BirdLife project to identify and document key sites for migrating Arctic waders. AMBI Coordinators identified CSN Tool data gaps in Arctic countries.
2. Increase quality and quantity of population status assessment data of Arctic breeding waterbirds in the African-Eurasian Flyway			
2.1	Support the implementation of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP) and the revised AEWA Guidelines on Waterbird Monitoring with respect to those Arctic-breeding waterbirds for which optimal data are still lacking, through cooperation with the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership and the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative by providing financial and/or technical support	In progress	Arctic Russian workshop planned but delayed. Pursuing opportunities with Russia and with Dutch funding to provide an update status and trends report with chapter on climate effects on shorebirds. Norway conducts annual colour ringing on Bar-tailed Godwit.
2.2	Support improved population delineation of Arctic-breeding waders by collating Arctic breeding wader migration data (tracking, colour-marking, geolocator, ringing data, etc.) and presenting it on the CSN tool to improve flyway delineation data	Some progress	Russia and CAFF part of a consortium led by CWSS for an application to the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The applied programme aims for "Climate Resilience for Critical Sites for Migratory Birds and People along the East Atlantic Flyway".
3. Development and dissemination of information and awareness materials addressing priority target			
3.1	Support the development of communication products (in collaboration with flyway partners) showcasing migratory connectivity, knowledge gaps, and threats in the African-Eurasian Flyway area	On track	Facilitated connection between Cornell Lab of Ornithology and various Flyway Committee members and partners to develop a Flyway video showcasing important sites and species. Working with others to promote AMBI species, habitats and conservation issues.
4. Reduce bycatch of seaducks in the Baltic Sea			
4.1	Support the implementation of the AEWA Long-tailed Duck and Velvet Scoter International Single Species Action Plans with respect to the identified activities regarding bycatch under the auspices of the AEWA European Seaduck International Working Group	Some progress	Received invitation and potential financial support to represent AMBI at the first AEWA European Seaduck International Working Group (meeting deferred until Dec. 2020). Drafted information note to encourage prioritization of bycatch issue in the Single Species Action Plans.
5. Support measures under the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose (LWfG) International Working Group (IWG) to prevent illegal killing			
5.1	Assist the AEWA LWfG IWG with the translation and dissemination of awareness-raising and education materials in key areas for the species within the Russian Arctic amongst Indigenous and local communities	Some progress	AMBI approached Russia to discuss possible connection/ access to local communities and dissemination of BirdLife Greece/Norway partner produced LWFG communications materials into Nenets Autonomous Okrug. Seeking opportunities to make partnerships in the focal geography.
5.2	Support the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat in engaging key Range States on a diplomatic level through Arctic Council member and observer country embassies	Some progress	Seeking advice on Russian engagement via AMBI Chair and CAFF Board representative. UNEP/AEWA Secretariat carried out missions to various ministries, embassies, UN agencies and EU missions in LWFG range states.

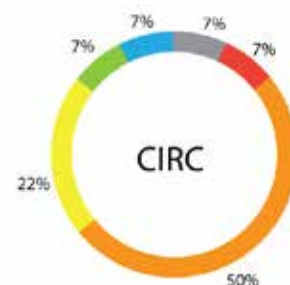
AMERICAS FLYWAY (AMER): SUMMARY



OBJECTIVE/ACTION		STATUS	NOTES
Theme 1: Evaluate impacts of overabundant geese populations on Arctic shorebird habitat and implement appropriate mitigation measures			
1. Understand the expansion of white geese populations in shorebird habitat			
1.1	Understand impacts of populations of white geese on other bird species in western Canada	No action	Substantial work conducted in Eastern Canadian Arctic during previous years of AMBI. Unclear if the same issue is present and concerning communities in the Western Canadian Arctic in the same manner. Work with CHARS to advance implementation.
1.2	Understand trends in the populations of white geese in Alaska and their impacts on shorebird breeding habitats	In progress	Population surveys of geese are conducted annually. The number of small snow goose colonies are growing but potential harm is hard to feel at present.
2. Mitigate effects of over- abundant white geese populations on shorebird habitat			
2.1	Implement management actions resulting from study of white geese impacts in Canada (undertaken as part of AMBI Phase 1)	In progress	Need to continue to engage community in management actions resulting from AMBI activities in 2015-2019.
3. Ensure Traditional Knowledge is incorporated into white geese impacts research and mitigation measures			
3.1	Continue to include Traditional Knowledge in future work	In progress	Inuit were a core part of the approach for defining priorities in the last phase of white goose work. Could seek possibilities of cooperation with Inuit Field Training Program.
Theme 2: Identification of climate resilient shorebird breeding and wintering habitat			
4. Determine climate change resilient areas of shorebird habitat and promote their protection			
4.1	Carry out an analysis of the resilience of shorebird wintering habitat to climate change	Some progress	Climate change resilience analysis conducted for breeding areas under AMBI 1.0 and funded by CEC. This action seeks to expand that work into wintering habitats. Attempt to secure funds from NMBCA failed. Need to identify plan and funding for implementation in non-breeding areas, including exploring partnering and expanding work previously conducted under CEC funding and by Point Blue, need to raise at least \$50,000 USD to advance.
4.2	Promote protection of climate change resilient shorebird breeding, wintering and migration habitats	Some progress	AMBI requires building stronger relationships within North and South America. Need to have action 4.1 conducted for implementation of 4.2. On the breeding grounds, federal, state, Indigenous groups and others would need to collaborate to protect particular important habitats/ locations. Should examine the CAFF Wetlands project for lessons and considerations, including Indigenous perspectives. On non-breeding grounds: Partner with Point Blue to conduct similar analysis for WHSRN sites on the Atlantic, need to raise at least US \$50,000 to advance.

OBJECTIVE/ACTION		STATUS	NOTES
Theme 3: Reduce shorebird habitat impairment from human intrusions, disturbances, destruction and degradation			
5. Mitigate habitat impairment from human intrusions and disturbances			
5.1	Support efforts to develop policies and legislation to ensure the sustainability of legal hunting of shorebirds in North and South America	In progress	The Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative (AFSI) working group was developed before AMBI and has been working on this issue (hence the progress status), but this is not a result of AMBI. It is unclear the scope for AMBI under this component.
5.2	Promote studies that assess the prevalence and impacts of plastic contamination in shorebird populations in the Arctic	On track	CAFF-IASC Fellowship review of existing knowledge on the ingestion, exposure, and vulnerability of shorebirds to plastic pollution for publication, and developing a network to support the increase of information gathering. Await results from CAFF IASC Fellowship work to further identify areas/ species on which to focus
5.3	Work with communities and governments to protect important sites for shorebirds	Some progress	Need to bring funding to activities on which we suggest to partners. AMBI needs to have better engagement with WHSRN site partners. Feb. 2019 funding from Knobloch Family Foundation secured \$103K by US partners included work to track Buff-breasted Sandpiper
6. Mitigate habitat impairment from destruction and degradation of coastal habitats and productive landscapes			
6.1	Evaluate the impacts of habitat loss and degradation from agriculture, aquaculture, renewable energy production and tourism development on shorebirds and their habitats in Latin America	Some progress	AMBI requires building stronger relationships within Latin America. Resources have not been secured to support this action.
6.2	Ensure mitigation measures are incorporated into development decisions	No action	AMBI requires building stronger relationships within Latin America. Resources have not been secured to support this action.
6.3	Designate important sites under appropriate international conservation frameworks (e.g. Ramsar Convention, WHSRN, World Heritage)	Some progress	Progress being made by Arctic states in cooperation with WHSRN and others. Additional work needed to identify important sites and personnel on the ground at these sites to designate sites.
6.4	Work with communities and governments to protect important sites	No action	Need clarity on language. AMBI requires building stronger relationships within Latin America. Resources have not been secured to support this action.
Theme 4: Flyway planning and implementation			
7. Contribute to the implementation and development of regional flyway initiatives			
7.1	Promote and support the implementation of regional strategies and Flyway initiatives	On track	Good progress.
7.2	Encourage/coordinate the development of an American Mid-continental Flyway strategy	On track	AMBI is co-leading together with Manomet and US Fish and Wildlife Service the development of the Midcontinent Shorebird Conservation Initiative.

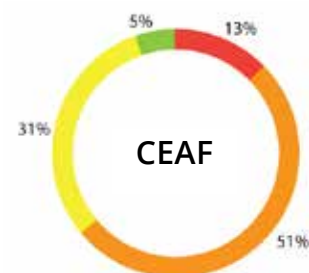
CIRCUMPOLAR FLYWAY (CIRC): SUMMARY



OBJECTIVE/ACTION		STATUS	NOTES
1. Enhance data collection and data input into habitat protection initiatives			
1.1	Raise awareness and facilitate protection of at-sea areas where key marine bird habitats intersect with human activities	Some progress	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has been working with communities to include consideration of the health of seabirds in relation to contaminants in the Baffin Bay - Davis Strait Strategic Environment Assessment. CBird project: Shipping Risk to Seabirds in Circumpolar Regions. See SEATRACK item below.
1.2	Support country participation in circumpolar collaborations to enhance Ivory Gull surveys and collection and synthesis of marine bird tracking data (including Ivory Gulls)	In progress	CBird project: International Ivory Gull survey addresses the international survey component of this action. Norway-led SEATRACK recently expanded to include Canada and Greenland in addition to locations in Russia, Norway, the United Kingdom, the Faroe Islands and Iceland. SEATRACK has collected a significant amount of new tracking data on seabirds mainly in the Atlantic Ocean, representing a valuable input to many international processes and AMBI-objectives. A dedicated volume of Marine Ecology Progress Series will present some key results from SEATRACK Phase I.
1.3	Knowledge gap analysis of circumpolar seabird tracking studies	Reporting unavailable	Unable to reach lead.
2. Harvest assessments and mitigation of unsustainable harvest			
2.1	Work with CBird to promote dialogue with authorities for management plans to combine the knowledge of status of hunted species between countries	In progress	CBird's North Atlantic Murre Harvest model project contributes to part of this action implementation (i.e., Thick-billed Murres in the North Atlantic).
2.2	Assess the population-level impact of seabird harvest in relation to other stressors	In progress	CBird's North Atlantic Murre Harvest model project contributes to part of this action implementation (i.e., Thick-billed Murres in the North Atlantic in relation to hunting/oiling).
2.3	Conduct/update a harvest inventory for circumpolar regions of interest	Some progress	Project scoping document in development. Note concern from PPs on implementation of this action and importance to address this action in regionally appropriate contexts with their involvement and leadership.
3. Mitigate seabird and seaduck bycatch			
3.1	Initiate an overlap analysis for seabird bycatch in circumpolar region	No action	Lack of lead hinders progression of this item.
3.2	Continue discussions about mitigation measures with fisheries partners	Some progress	Canada and BirdLife leading efforts with northern fisheries in Canada and Greenland/Iceland, respectively.

OBJECTIVE/ACTION		STATUS	NOTES
3.3	Support efforts to develop best practices for bycatch data collection	Some progress	See above.
3.4	Finalize gill net bycatch assessment in key regions	Completed	Completed as described in work plan, as CBird's project: Bycatch of seabirds in lumpsucker fisheries addressed lumpsucker gill net fisheries. Note that this AMBI action language is being adjusted to allow for broader scope and allow for other priority species, fisheries and regions to be addressed.
4. Address environmental pollution issues			
4.1	State of knowledge assessment for plastics in wildlife	On track	Funding through the Arctic Council's Project Support Instrument (PSI) enabled contractors to produce several reports/publications.
4.2	Work with Arctic Council countries and Permanent Participants, PAME, and AMAP to begin to address knowledge gaps	Some progress	Via the PSI grant to CAFF, work in above action included in the AMAP Litter and Microplastics Expert Group (LMEG) Monitoring Guidelines and in the PAME Marine Litter Regional Action Plan (PAME ML-RAP).
5. Support the activities and priorities of the International Snowy Owl Working Group (ISOWG)			
5.1	Publish a more precise global population estimate and assessment of population trends	Some progress	The 5th ISOWG-meeting was held in Finnmark, Northern Norway in March 2020.
5.2	Implement wider-scale tracking of Snowy Owls throughout their range	Some progress	Satellite transmitters on Snowy Owls in Canada to provide information on wintering and breeding areas.

CENTRAL AND EAST ASIAN FLYWAYS (CEAF): SUMMARY



OBJECTIVE/ACTION		STATUS	NOTES
1. Identify and secure important breeding and staging habitats of key AMBI- EAAF migratory bird species in Arctic Russia and Alaska, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot, Dunlin, Emperor Goose and Brant Goose			
1.1	(Russia): Improve conservation work on Spoon-billed Sandpiper (SBS) and other AMBI priority species in the breeding grounds	On track	Ongoing field work
1.2	(Russia): Identify important breeding and staging areas in coastal areas of Russia for AMBI priority species, and where possible encourage and assist their nomination as EAAF Partnership Network Sites with follow-up conservation actions	In progress	Satellite tracking of Spoon-billed Sandpipers (conducted by partners in cooperation with others) allowed the identification of new key stopover sites in the Russian Far East and Penzhina Bay was surveyed.
1.3	(United States): Undertake bird surveys and tracking studies to improve knowledge of important breeding and staging sites for priority species in Alaska	In progress	The Alaskan Shorebird Group updated the Alaskan Shorebird Conservation Plan, (2019). Three priority species overlap with AMBI (Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Knot and Dunlin). Surveys conducted in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 2019 will be repeated in 2021.
1.4	(United States): Protect previously identified important breeding and staging areas	Some progress	The Alaska Shorebird Conservation Plan (2019) identifies what is believed to be the key breeding and migration sites in Alaska. Need political will to advance protection.
1.5	(Russia/United States): Share experience and methodologies for surveying shorebird distribution, monitoring population size and trends, conducting demographic studies, and managing habitats of priority species and other migratory birds	In progress	Sharing of experiences occurring between Russian and US scientists, supported by governments and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).
2. Secure intertidal and associated habitat for AMBI priority species at key staging and wintering sites in the EAAF			
2.1	(Russia): Ensure improvement of protection of the Russian Far East coastal shorebird stopover sites	Some progress	A major proposal (Land of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper) is being developed by BirdsRussia with the support of CAFF and EAAFP Spoon-billed Sandpiper Taskforce.
2.2	(United States): Gather better information on the abundance, distribution and habitat use of Dunlin and Bar-tailed Godwits at spring and fall staging sites in Alaska	In progress	Staging counts of Bar-tailed Godwits were conducted in August/ Sept of 2019. Breeding surveys of Dunlin were conducted on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in June 2019.
2.3	(China): Enhance protection of Jiangsu Coast ecosystem, especially the Rudong and Dongtai areas for Spoon-billed Sandpiper and other Arctic-breeding shorebirds considering World Heritage Site Nomination requirements	In progress	April 2019 the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Protection Alliance was established at Yancheng City, China. Tiaozini included in Phase I Chinese Yellow Sea World Heritage inscription in 2019. China in the process of updating the list of protected species under the People's Republic of China Wild Animal Protection Law
2.4	(China): Enhance protection of the Luannan Coast especially Nanpu, Tangshan for Red Knot and other Arctic-breeding shorebirds	Some progress	Nanpu listed as part of second phase of Chinese Yellow Sea World Heritage nomination. Encourage inclusion in Phase 2 China Yellow Sea World Heritage nomination in 2022/23.
2.5	(China): Enhance protection at Yalu Jiang, Liaoning for Bar-tailed Godwit, Dunlin, Great Knot and other Arctic shorebirds	In progress	Encourage inclusion in Phase 2 China Yellow Sea World Heritage nomination in 2022/23. Yalujiang National Nature Reserve under management of Forestry and Grassland Sector to help enhance management and legislation.

OBJECTIVE/ACTION		STATUS	NOTES
2.6	(China): Increase knowledge of key staging and wintering Arctic-breeding shorebirds sites in southern China (Guangdong, Guangxi and Fujian provinces) and improve conservation status of these sites	Some progress	In winter 2019 local volunteers in Guangdong and Guangxi Provinces launched the wintering survey of Spoon-billed Sandpipers in the wetlands in Leizhou Peninsula of Guangdong and Fangchenggang, Guangxi.
2.7	(Republic of Korea): Support efforts to reverse declining trends of AMBI priority species (SBS, Great Knot, Dunlin and other) and improve habitat conservation along the Flyway through sharing knowledge and international cooperative projects	Some progress	National Institute of Ecology (NIE) volunteered to host the first East Asian Australasian Shorebird Science Meeting (November 2020). The NIE is in the process of establishing a knowledge sharing platform for wetlands as shorebird habitat in East Asia. BL and BL Partner (BL Australia) working to trial and restore shorebird habitat and roosts in ROK (Geum), and supported monitoring workshop led by government and NGO stakeholders in 2018/2019.
2.8	(Republic of Korea): Promote the importance of conserving Korea's remaining intertidal shorebird zones for the protection of Arctic-breeding and other migratory waterbirds including the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Great Knot, and Dunlin	Some progress	Republic of Korea has submitted the World Heritage Site nomination for an intertidal site on the south-west coast. This will be assessed by the upcoming World Heritage Committee meeting. Support Phase I World Heritage nomination in 2020/21. BL and BL Partner (BL Australia) working to trial and restore shorebird habitat and roosts in ROK (Geum), and supported monitoring workshop led by government and NGO stakeholders in 2018/2019.
2.9	(Republic of Korea/China): Encourage the Governments of China and Republic of Korea to develop measures to address Spartina to protect high ecological value sites for AMBI priority species to ensure meeting the criteria of World Heritage Site nomination	In progress	Ministry of Environment in ROK is conducting Spartina monitoring project and a management plan has been developed. Yancheng World Heritage Site Management Office is cooperating with Paulson Institute and Fudan University to initiate the Spartina control and monitoring project.
2.10	(Republic of Korea/China): Seek China and the Republic of Korea AMBI focal points to develop Resolutions of Cooperation with CAFF Secretariat to guide future cooperation	In progress	Currently pending further guidance and action from Senior Arctic Officials.
2.11	(Singapore): Encourage utilizing the ASEAN Flyway Network (ASEAN AFN) as a platform to engage ASEAN Member States to mainstream AMBI priorities to promote conservation of wetlands and migratory waterbirds. Explore the possibility of collaborating with ASEAN AFN on a key wetland site conservation program.	In progress	Singapore National Parks is leading the implementation of a four-year regional capacity building project for the management of important sites for migratory waterbirds supported by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund.
2.12	(Japan): Further develop dialogue to promote cooperation on the conservation of Arctic-breeding migratory birds in the EAAF with a focus on selected priority actions identified within this work plan, including conservation of AMBI priority species in Japan and in the flyway, building on existing bilateral migratory bird agreements	In progress	Japan held Russia-Japan bilateral meeting and Dunlin workshop in January 2020. Colour-flagging shorebirds and DNA analysis to identify subspecies of Dunlin that fly to Japan. Promoted inclusion of AMBI priority species for regular monitoring through a project conducted in Vietnam. Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund financially supporting an ASEAN project. Utilize existing agreements and projects and realise the synergy by AMBI. In addition to such existing cooperation channels, there is a need to engage broader stakeholders to maximise the conservation efforts. BL is in progress of supporting MOEJ in surveying and identification of priority sites for dunlin in 2019-2020.
2.13	(India): Work with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bombay Natural History Society and other relevant Indian institutions to assess the status and trends of AMBI priority species and promote conservation measures	Some progress	AMBI invited to deliver plenary addresses and co-organize side events/meetings at international conferences held in India. Advanced discussions about tracking, surveying, illegal hunting and expert exchange project. Four AMBI species to have Single Species Action Plans developed under India's National Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Birds in the Central Asian Flyway. Delayed due to COVID.
2.14	(All countries): Explore the possibilities for a collaborative pilot project on Spartina control, with CAFF's Arctic Invasive Alien Species Action Plan International Coordinating Group (ARIAS ICG) and other partners	No action	Unclear status of ARIAS and unsure of their interest outside of Arctic. Initial conversations early 2019 between AMBI, USFWS and the Paulson Institute to discuss how to advance Spartina eradication. No discussion since, but Paulson Institute engaged on topic. New Zealand could be engaged as experts.

OBJECTIVE/ACTION		STATUS	NOTES
2.15	(Singapore): Cooperate on a satellite tracking program for key migratory waterbird species within the EAAF	Some progress	Implement joint activities as COVID restrictions would allow, sometime in 2021.
2.16	(EAAFP) Cooperate with relevant governments and other partners to extend the African-Eurasian Critical Site Network Tool 2.0 (CSN2.0) to the EAAFP to develop, improve and promote the accessible inventory of nationally and internationally important coastal and inland sites for Arctic breeding waterbirds along the flyway.	Some progress	Build on existing proposal developed by Wetlands International and identify resources.
3. Prevent illegal hunting and regulate unsustainable legal harvest of Arctic migratory birds along the Flyway, with a focus on Spoon-billed Sandpiper, Lesser White-fronted Goose, Bar-tailed Godwit, and other priority species.			
3.1	(Russia): Support development and implementation of national and regional strategies and action plans for the elimination of illegal harvest of birds in Russia.	Some progress	Research being conducted by Russian researchers to better understand issue.
3.2	(United States): Conduct outreach, assess the magnitude and impacts of legal subsistence harvest on priority birds in Alaska, with a focus on Emperor Goose and Bar-tailed Godwits	Some progress	Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) conducts annual subsistence harvest surveys in Alaska. Efforts underway by ADF&G and USFWS to discuss subsistence needs and conservation issues of Emperor Goose and shorebirds in general (Bar-tailed Godwit) with Indigenous Peoples starting in 2019. These efforts will continue in 2021.
3.3	(China): Support development and implementation of national and regional strategies, action plans and implementation activities for the elimination of poaching of birds in China	Some progress	February 2020: The 16th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Thirteenth National People's Congress on February 24, 2020 adopted the decision on a Complete Ban of Illegal Wildlife Trade and the Elimination of the Unhealthy Habit of Indiscriminate Wild Animal Meat Consumption, For the Protection of Human Life and Health.
3.4	(India): Work with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Bombay Natural History Society and other Indian ministries and research institutions to promote AMBI work and address illegal hunting issues	Some progress	See action 2.13. Facilitate and encourage bilateral Russia-India cooperation on flyway work.
3.5	(All countries): Engage with the EAAFP and the CMS Task Forces on Illegal Killing/ Hunting, Taking and Trade of Birds to develop implementation of actions to address this threat to migratory Arctic-breeding birds	In progress	Attend the next EAAFP Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to advance cooperation with Illegal Killing Taking and Trade Task Force (EAAFP IKTT TF) colleagues. AMBI had meeting with Australia (Vice Chair of EAAFP IKTT TF) during CMS COP13. Consider CMS Wild Meat initiatives BL has co-organised workshops and symposiums with the EAAFP and the CMS Task Forces on Illegal Killing/ Hunting, Taking and Trade of Birds, including at CMS COP in 2020.
3.6	(All countries): Work to curb the use of equipment for illegally captured birds	Some progress	CMS COP13 (2020) decision to undertake a global situation analysis on mist nets. Including a component in the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument (PSI) application re: economic analysis of the issue.
3.7	(All countries): Raise the profile of illegal hunting, taking and trade of migratory Arctic birds by linking it to broader forums and discussions on illegal wildlife trade, the bushmeat trade, and wildlife crime discourse in CBD, CITES and other relevant organizations	In progress	COVID-19 has raised awareness of infectious diseases that may result from indiscriminate take of wildlife. CMS COP13 (2020) decision to undertake a global situation analysis on mist nets. Both China and Vietnam have introduced legislation to stop the illegal wildlife trade. BL and BL Partners are working on the situation analysis on bird hunting in SE Asian countries.
3.8	(All countries): Support an illegal hunting technical workshop to share expertise and address illegal hunting along the Flyway	No action	Develop partnership with Vietnam and EAAFP IKTT TF to advance this issue (North Vietnam flagged in situation analysis as an area of significance for illegal hunting of AMBI priority species). Explore global networks of WCS and WWF. BL co-organising a symposium to share expertise on illegal hunting, in collaboration with EAAFP IKTT TF in 2020.
3.9	(All countries): Develop or support monthly mist net surveys and removal activities in key Spoon-billed Sandpiper sites, using the positive experiences in China as an example	No action	Consider the development of a standardized mist net survey protocol to standardize data collection across the Flyway. Should discuss with EAAFP IKTT TF.

OBJECTIVE/ACTION		STATUS	NOTES
3.10	(All countries): Initiate a research project on human dimension in bird poaching mitigation along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway considering cultural traditions and Traditional Knowledge	Some progress	Some activities started as part of the project on hunting evaluation of shorebirds in Kamchatka (see action 3.1). Need to consider the AMBI CIRC Action 2.3 re: "circumpolar harvest inventory".
3.11	(USA and Russia): Work to assess legal and illegal Emperor Goose harvest in Russia and Alaska to develop a consistent Beringia-wide legal framework for the management and long-term sustainability of the species	Some progress	Russia (BirdsRussia) and US (AF&G) assessing subsistence harvest, assisted in Russia by WCS. Beringia-wide work to be advanced.
3.12	(Russia, China, India): Prioritise conservation of Eastern and Central Asian populations of Lesser White-fronted Goose (LWFG) and reverse their declining trends	Some progress	Information exchange occurring but need opportunities for countries to come together.
4. Work with partners to increase the number and quality of population estimates of Arctic-breeding waterbirds in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway			
4.1	(All countries): Work with partners such as EAAF Partnership, Wetlands International and other partners to improve population estimates for AMBI priority species by supporting collation of up-to-date information on estimates and trends	Some progress	Basic information on population sizes and trends lacking for many species. Opportunity to input into the development of the 1st EAAFP Conservation Status Review that will feed into the new Waterbird Populations Portal
4.2	(All countries): Cooperate with partners such as the EAAF Partnership Waterbird Monitoring Task Force, Wetlands International, BirdLife International and the Global Flyway Network to strengthen monitoring of Arctic-breeding migratory waterbirds along the Flyway, particularly in the Yellow Sea and Southeast Asia	Some progress	Partners advancing work. Need to identify specific project/opportunity to help implement this action.
5. Address other threats to Arctic migratory birds along EAAF and improve international cooperation			
5.1	(All countries): Analyse and assess high-income-country development aid funding structures and opportunities to help identify how AMBI can support conservation of important priority species' habitats, and alternative livelihoods of coastal communities where illegal hunting pressures exist	No action	Funding and contractor need to be identified to analyse Arctic country and observer development funding programs to explore opportunities AMBI connection and make recommendations for follow up.
5.2	(All countries): Initiate work on evaluation of the effect of contaminants on Arctic-breeding migratory birds as factor possibly decreasing their survival and reproduction potential and estimate bio-transition of them along the Flyway to the Arctic	Some progress	The field of contaminants effects on shorebirds in the Flyway is still relatively new. Extensive discussions with those working in Flyway have helped inform a draft application to Arctic Council PSI.
5.3	(All countries): Promote cooperation between EAAFP's Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force and AMBI in addressing Spoon-billed Sandpiper conservation activities identified in this work plan	On track	Good cooperation and collaboration amongst AMBI and EAAFP SBS TF colleagues. BL work closely with EAAFP SBS TF to support the delivery of its priority actions in SE Asia.
5.4	(All countries): Create an intervention tool box to ensure resilience of Arctic- breeding migratory birds along East Asian-Australasian Flyway with the involvement of Arctic Council Observer countries as recommended by the draft AMBI crosswalk analysis under the PSI funded project	No action	Considering as part of the Arctic Council PSI application to improve appropriate interventions in the Flyway.



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