



# **Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative – Americas Flyway Crosswalk Summary Results**

**Report prepared by Rob Clay and Jennifer Provencher**

**With guidance from the AMBI Americas Flyway Committee**

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## Results of the AMBI Americas Flyway Crosswalk Activity:

**Purpose:** The aim of the crosswalk exercise is to analyze how program objectives of the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI) under the Arctic Council's Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna's working group (CAFF) align with existing initiatives in the region. This can include, but is not limited to, national biodiversity strategies, international conventions, regional frameworks, national shorebird conservation action plans and any other relevant documents that deal with similar topics.

Specifically, for the purpose of AMBI, the objective was to create a document and tool to show regional and national partners within the Americas how supporting and implementing AMBI would help address existing priorities. This extended to both specific countries within AMBI focal regions where conservation actions were deemed to have the most benefit, and regional initiatives overlapping with AMBI focal areas.

**Methods:** The crosswalk exercise specifically focused on the AMBI Americas flyway objectives which are found in detail in the AMBI workplan (<http://www.caff.is/arctic-migratory-birds-initiative-ambi>). This work was made possible thanks to support from UNEP RONA. In brief the four AMBI Americas flyway objectives mapped to other initiatives were:

1. Evaluate and determine appropriate mitigations, to impacts of overabundant goose populations on Arctic shorebird habitat.
2. Evaluate and determine appropriate mitigations to loss and shifting of shorebird habitat from climate change
3. Mitigate habitat impairment from human intrusions and disturbance
4. Mitigate habitats destruction and degradation from development.

AMBI objectives were considered at two different levels of conservation plans within the crosswalk exercise (Figure 1). First, the AMBI objectives and actions were compared across existing shorebird conservation plans within the AMBI focal regions (Fig 1). This step included plans and initiatives specific to shorebird conservation in the region.

- Global Program of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild animals (CMS)
- Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative Business Plan (AFSIBP)
- Americas Flyway Framework (AFF) (this considered separately from CMS as this was added as an Annex to the Global Program of Work)

All countries with the focal geography that have national shorebird plans were also considered, which include:

- Brazilian Migratory Shorebird Conservation Plan
- Colombian Shorebird Conservation Plan
- United States Shorebird Conservation Plan
- Canadian Shorebird Conservation Plan

A second step of the crosswalk used an expanded set of National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs), national reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and voluntary reports on the CBD's Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity to compare AMBI objectives to a wider set of conservation initiatives (Fig 1). We examined all NBSAPS within the focal geography, plus the most recent reports on implementation (on most cases, the 5<sup>th</sup>). We also considered those countries that have presented voluntary reports under the CBD PoW on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity. This step was designed to examine how AMBI will address larger biodiversity priorities that are related to biodiversity, but not necessarily specific to shorebirds. This included the following:

- Canada – 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets (5<sup>th</sup> National Report 2014-03-31)
- Canada – Voluntary Report on the Implementation on the Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity
- Colombia - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- Colombia - 5<sup>th</sup> National Report Information Re Part II (Section 2.2)(2014-05-26)
- Colombia - Voluntary Report on Implementation of the Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity
- Venezuela - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (v.2)
- Venezuela - Fourth National Report
- Trinidad & Tobago - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2006-02-07)
- Trinidad & Tobago - Fourth National Report
- Guyana - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (v.3)
- Guyana - Fifth National Report
- Suriname - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (v.2)
- Suriname - Fifth National Report
- French Guiana - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (v.2)
- French Guiana - Fifth National Report FRENCH ONLY
- French Guiana - Other 5th National Report Information Summary
- Brazil - National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (v.2)
- Brazil - Fifth National Report
- Brazil - Voluntary Report on Implementation of the Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity

### Results:

There is a high degree of overlap between AMBI and the national initiatives involving shorebirds, especially under AMBI objectives 3 and 4 (Table 1) which deal with preserving shorebird habitat. When a wider lens was taken it was also found that AMBI objectives address numerous initiatives with broader biodiversity priorities throughout the region (Fig 2).

### Key Findings:

- AMBI's objectives align with numerous national, regional and international initiatives involving shorebirds and biodiversity in the Americas region.
- AMBI has the potential to bolster and support shorebird conservation as it can foster international cooperation on common shorebird conservation priorities.
- AMBI objectives regarding mitigating habitat impairment and destruction have the highest alignment throughout the Americas region and should be the focus of international discussions aimed at finding common priorities with partners.



## TABLES

Table 1. Condensed crosswalk table showing where AMBI objectives align with national and international programs where specific strategies are publically available for examination. Number of ✓ indicates how many priorities under the national and regional plans are met by AMBI objectives. Note that while some large scale organizations such as Ramsar were considered using their overall high level priorities, these were not mapped on to the AMBI objectives specifically as there are no publically available action plans at this level of detail.

Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative	CMS	AFF	AFSIBP	Brazil	Colombia	US	Canada
1.1 - Study how overabundant white goose are affecting shorebird habitat	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓✓
1.2 - Incorporate indigenous knowledge into migratory bird management plan		✓	✓✓				
2.1 - Assess persistence of shorebird habitat under climate change	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
2.2 - Protection of shorebird habitat in Arctic		✓	✓			✓	✓
2.3 - Protection of shorebird habitat in South America		✓	✓		✓✓	✓	✓
3.1 - Assess human impacts at key shorebird habitat sites		✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓		✓
3.2 - Coordination of shorebird hunting assessment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4.1 - Map shorebird habitat in relation to other coastal uses		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
4.2 - Extend and revise best management practices to coastal develop activities for northern South America		✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓
4.3 - Build awareness and accessibility to shorebird habitat information	✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓ ✓✓	✓✓✓		✓✓
4.4 - Obtain protected status for key shorebird areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓

FIGURES

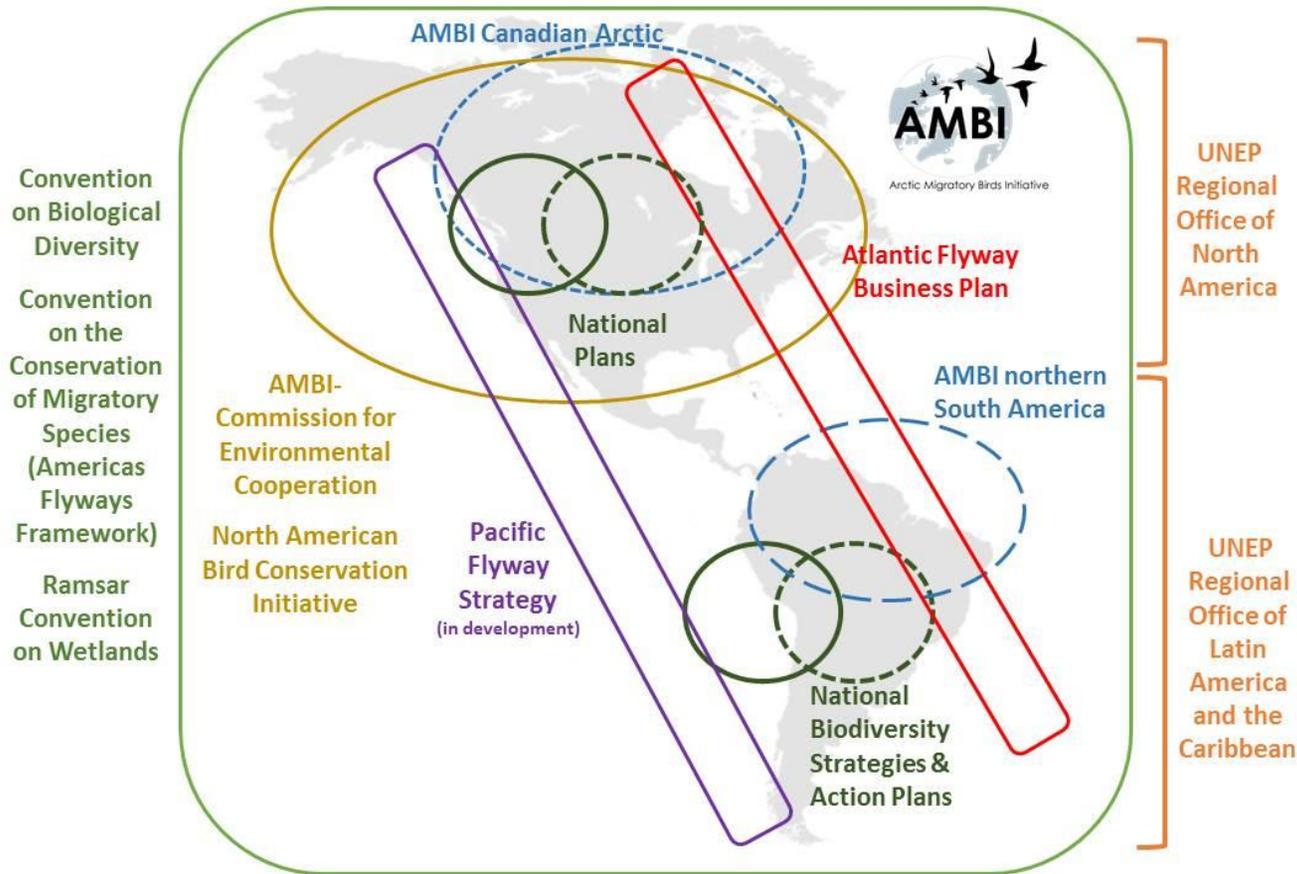


Figure 1. Schematic illustrating the geographic overlap of conservation initiatives in the Americas related to shorebirds and biodiversity.

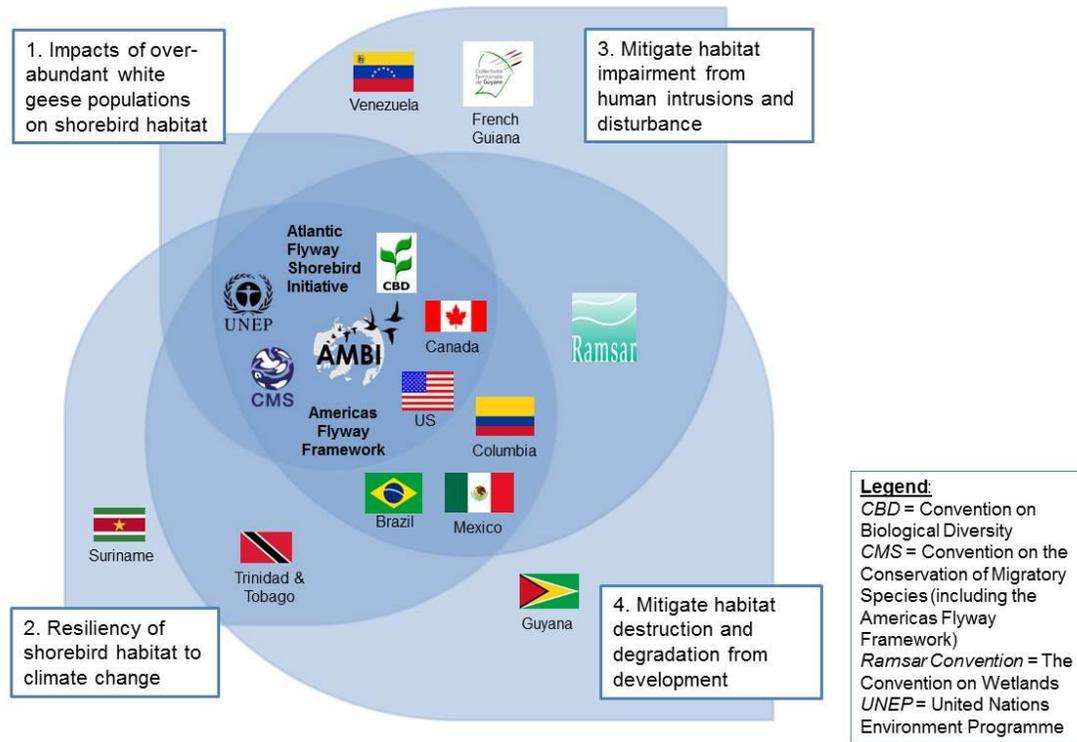


Figure 2. Conservation objectives within existing international and national policy frameworks in the Americas Flyway being addressed by the Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI). Each shape represents a theme under AMBI. National plans and international programs are placed in regions of overlap that represent the degree to which their priorities overlap with AMBI objectives.

**Appendix A – AMBI Americas objectives and actions as approved by the Arctic Council Ministers.**

<b><i>Americas Flyway Objectives</i></b>	<b><i>Actions</i></b>
<b>Evaluate, and determine appropriate mitigations, to impacts of overabundant goose populations on Arctic shorebird habitat.</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct research that is designed to identify and quantify the magnitude and mechanism(s) of impact that white goose habitat destruction has on breeding populations of shorebirds, in particular Semipalmated Sandpipers, in the eastern and Central Canadian Arctic.</li> <li>2. Incorporate Inuit knowledge and advice into management recommendations.</li> </ol>
<b>Evaluate and determine appropriate mitigations to loss and shifting of shorebird habitat from climate change.</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake an analysis that identifies the attributes and locations of shorebird habitats that are most likely to persist under future climate scenarios.</li> <li>2. Encourage the protection of large contiguous tracts of shorebird habitat, in parts of the eastern and central Canadian Arctic that are least susceptible to climate changes.</li> <li>3. AMBI will explore opportunities to conduct assessments that quantify the vulnerability of key sites for shorebirds on the north coast of South America to climate change, and recommend actions to mitigate and/or to adapt to these impacts. AMBI will facilitate transfer of the knowledge and recommendations to habitat managers at the relevant sites.</li> </ol>
<b>Mitigate habitat impairment from human intrusions and disturbance.</b> <b>The</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Communities and other partners associated with established Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) and Important Bird Area (IBA) sites will be encouraged to conduct site assessments to identify critical threats to the focal species, and develop strategies to mitigate these threats.</li> <li>2. AMBI will cooperate with initiatives that document the scope of shorebird hunting at selected sites along the Flyway. This includes working with hunters to assess level of take (in countries with legal hunts) and using direct observation and indirect measures (e.g., number of registered firearms, quantity and species of birds sold in local markets) as an indicator of hunt level (in countries where hunting is illegal).</li> </ol>
<b>Mitigate habitat destruction and degradation from development.</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AMBI will create maps showing the overlap of rice farms, shrimp farms, and key shorebird habitat sites in northern South America.</li> <li>2. There are existing Best Management Practices (BMPs) for these activities elsewhere in the world, that could be adapted for this region. AMBI will make accessible searchable, accessible BMPs that are useful for rice cultivation and shrimp farming in northern South America. BMPs should take into account the potential exposure of shorebirds to harmful chemicals used in rice cultivation and shrimp farming, both in terms of type and application, and the timing of habitat use by shorebirds (e.g., for feeding, roosting, or both).</li> <li>3. AMBI will work to ensure that key sites for shorebirds have been clearly identified and documented in publicly-available databases, that information on these sites is incorporated into development bank/ multilateral agreement decision tools and environmental safeguard policies, and that the information is readily available to governments in the focal area and incorporated into development plans.</li> <li>4. AMBI will work to obtain site designations (e.g., Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network, Ramsar sites), and ensure that information about each site's characteristics and ecosystem services is transmitted to local and national governments.</li> </ol>