

Circumpolar Seabird Expert Group (CBird) Implementation Update France, 2019

The [Circumpolar Seabird Expert Group \(CBird\)](#) promotes, facilitates, and coordinates conservation, management and research activities among circumpolar countries and improves communication between seabird scientists and managers inside and outside the Arctic.



Photo: David Grémillet



Current CBird Priorities

● Country participating ● Country not participating

- The State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report (SAMBR)
- Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI) (Implementing the Circumpolar Flyway Workplan)
- Implementation of the species-specific conservation strategies and action plans
- Contributing seabird monitoring data to State of the Arctic Marine Biodiversity Report (SAMBR) and Seabird Information Network (SIN)
- Circumpolar Review of Arctic Tern Population Trends
- Assessment of seabird bycatch in Lumpfish fisheries
- Murre harvest study and scientific recommendations to international and national harvest schemes
- Black-legged Kittiwake conservation strategy
- Publication: Circumpolar dynamics of a marine top-predator track ocean warming rates (Descamps et al. 2017, Global Change Biology)

Links with National Priorities

The [French National Roadmap for the Arctic](#) defines the protection of the marine environment as well as research and scientific cooperation as two of the French policy priorities in the Arctic and is thereby in agreement with CBird objectives. CBird objectives are also compatible with research work carried on seabirds by teams funded by the [French Polar Institute](#) and the [CNRS](#). Research works are operated in Svalbard, Greenland, Norway and built-up collaboration with Arctic nations. These activities are also in line with the [French Arctic Initiative](#) work plan exposing the main axes of research to be explored by the French scientific community in order to further understand the major issues affecting the Arctic.

Photo: Morten Ekker



CBird Summary of 2017-18 Country Achievements

Identifying the need for Arctic Seabird Monitoring

The TAMANI program (<http://tamani-project.com/wp/>) is currently the main French contribution to the joint efforts of the CBIRD working group of CAFF. Its framework has been specifically designed for this purpose, following discussion with CAFF and CBIRD stakeholders. The TAMANI program uses pan-arctic data on existing monitoring programs of seabirds, to test the hypothesis that this network of monitoring sites is unevenly distributed relative to environmental gradients. These analyses will allow us to propose a revised, ecologically sound network of key monitoring sites for land vertebrates and seabirds, that allows the most efficient study of these key species on a pan-arctic scale while fully involving local communities in participatory citizen science programs.

Long-term study programme of nesting Little Auks in East Greenland (ADACLIM)

The effects and consequences of environmental changes on the eco-physiology of little auks (*Alle alle*) are investigated through a long-term monitoring study that started in East Greenland in 2005 and is co-led by the [CEFE](#) and the [LIENSs](#) institutes. The project focuses on a variety of aspects related to foraging ecology, migration, reproductive performance, flight energetics and contaminants exposure. [More information.](#)

Effects of environmental contaminants on the reproduction of black-legged Kittiwake (ORNITHO-ENDOCRINO).

The effects of polyfluoroalkyl substances (industrial contaminants commonly found in the Arctic) on the survival and reproduction of the black-legged kittiwake in Svalbard and their consequences in terms of population dynamics are investigated by a research team from the [CEBC](#) laboratory. [More information.](#)

Tracking migration of shorebirds (LIMITRACK)

Habitat use and migratory movements of the shorebird community wintering along the Atlantic French coast and breeding in the Arctic and sub-Arctic are studied by a research team of the LIENSs institute through the use of GPS tracking. [More information.](#)

Pan-Arctic mercury contamination of seabirds (MAMBA and ARCTOX)

Relying on an international network around the Arctic, this project led by the LIENSs institute aims to map the large-scale exposure of the Arctic seabird community to the environmental contamination and further understand the sources, pathways and impacts of this contamination. [More information.](#)

Ivory gull and global changes (IVORY)

The [LECA](#) laboratory combines genetic studies and radio-tracking approaches to study the population dynamic, habitat use and movements of ivory gull across its whole home range. The project also aims at assessing the exposure of ivory gull to environmental contaminants and its subsequent effects. [More information.](#)

Host parasite interactions involving Arctic seabirds (PARASITO ARCTIQUE)

The CEFE institute combines laboratory approaches with field experiments to understand the evolution host-parasites interactions between seabirds, the tick *Ixodes uriae* and the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi*. [More information.](#)

David GREMILLET

Senior Scientist

CNRS, CEFE Montpellier

David.gremillet@cefe.cnrs.fr

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

Borgir, Nordurlod

600 Akureyri, Iceland

www.caff.is/cbird

caff@caff.is

