Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative (AMBI): protecting Arctic lifestyles and peoples through migratory bird conservation is a project designed to improve the status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations. AMBI has developed the Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative Work Plan 2015-2019 to identify priorities and guide actions.

Flyway Issues

The Bijagós Archipelago of Guinea-Bissau is affected by unsustainable land use, such as illegal fishing, mangrove cutting, floodplain conversion to agriculture and coastal erosion, which can affect the Red Knot and Bar-tailed Godwit.

The lowland habitats of Iceland are affected by afforestation policies, which can affect the breeding grounds of the Black-tailed Godwit, Dunlin and other waterbirds.

The Lesser White-fronted Goose is affected by unsustainable harvest along its migration route from breeding grounds in Fennoscandia and eastern Siberia through to central Asia.

Relevant Regional Initiatives

- African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)
- Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI)
- World Heritage Convention (WHC)
- Ramsar Convention

Bar-tailed Godwit, a priority species for AMBI 2015-2019. Photo: Richard Chandler
Priority Conservation Actions

Secure intertidal non-breeding habitat of Arctic waders in Bijagós Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau
- Share experience on World Heritage nomination
- Strengthen international recognition of the site
- Protect the site from damaging developments
- Support development of a site management committee and management plan, to guide management and to ensure that the needs of Arctic shorebirds are fully taken into account
- Mangrove restoration and provision of sustainable surveillance
- Coordination of the implementation of the Bijagós component of the AMBI work plan

Prevent unsustainable harvest of the Lesser White-fronted Goose
- Reduce Lesser White-fronted Goose mortality rates caused by illegal harvest
- Expand international Lesser White-fronted Goose conservation efforts to include the Eastern main sub-population.

Secure breeding habitat of waders in Iceland by ensuring that national afforestation, and other land use policies and practices are sustainable
- Cooperate with Iceland to avoid risk to breeding water birds from changes in land use in the Icelandic lowlands, especially as regards the national afforestation policy.

Anders Braa
AMBI African-Eurasian representative
Norwegian Environment Agency
Postboks 5672 Sluppen, 7485 Trondheim, Norway
Anders.Braa@miljodir.no
www.caff.is/ambi