The Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative – Americas Flyway

**AMBI Background:** To better understand the status and trends of Arctic flora and fauna the Arctic Council’s working group on the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) undertook the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment. Recent global assessments have highlighted that some Arctic-breeding migratory bird species have experienced population declines as much as 80% over the last few decades. The Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI) is designed to improve the conservation status and secure the long-term sustainability of declining Arctic breeding migratory bird populations. Through conservation of a shared natural and cultural resource, AMBI will have a positive impact on societies for whom migratory birds are a source of livelihood and spiritual inspiration.

**The AMBI Americas Flyway (AF):** To further develop the Americas Flyway workplan under AMBI, UNEP-RONA supported a workshop held in Washington, DC, USA in October 2014 that brought together experts from throughout the flyway. The workshop participants developed specific workplan objectives to address habitat loss and degradation affecting Red Knot Calidris canutus and Semipalmated Sandpiper Calidris pusilla. These two focal species were chosen from a larger list during this workshop due to their listing under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), which indicates species where parties should endeavor to provide immediate protection, and the near-threatened status of both species by ICUN listing.

Two focal areas were also identified in the Arctic and in northern South America. This scope enables AMBI to focus on a well-defined set of issues and actions that are a) not currently being addressed adequately from the perspective of AMBI focal species; b) have serious conservation implications for the focal species; c) will also have benefits to a wide number of co-occurring species; and d) can include significant contributions from indigenous organizations and traditional knowledge holders.

**AMBI Americas Workplan Objectives:**
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 habitat destruction and degradation from development

**AMBI America Activities:**

**AMBI Americas is supported by:**

**Some future steps for AMBI Americas:** Early efforts within AMBI Americas have focused mostly on objectives in the northern region. The next two years of AMBI are thus set to focus on objectives in South America.

1. Continue to support tracking movement studies that contribute to assessment of bird movement at the Continental level
2. Extend invitations to South American Countries to join AMBI AF Committee
3. AMBI AF is currently seeking partners to co-host a meeting in South America to get political agreement to pursue AMBI objectives & implementation strategies along the entire flyway.
4. Continue to support and synthesize work on the impacts of goose populations on shorebird habitat (led by Environment and Climate Change Canada and Trent University), including studies utilizing traditional knowledge.