

*Memorandum 2/11/2018*

## **MB5: Worldwide partnerships to conserve migratory birds: The Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI)**

This memo provides a summary of reports submitted on the session MB5 organized at the Arctic Biodiversity Session in Rovaniemi, Finland, October 9-12 organized by the XXXXXX.

**Attendance:** 50

**Arctic Biodiversity Assessment recommendation themes most prominently addressed in the session:**

- Ecosystem-based Management
- Addressing stressors
- Identifying and safeguarding important areas

**Key points raised in the session that were important to note:**

- The Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI) aims to improve the status of Arctic migratory birds by acting as a catalyst, setting ambitious goals and looking where it can bring added value to conservation in existing networks. T
- The main stressors with which AMBI is dealing are habitat loss and illegal killing.
- The unique aspect of AMBI is using migratory birds to involve observer countries of the Arctic council in conservation activities of CAFF.
- The involvement of all stakeholders in the conservation process was stressed.
- A project on plastics in seabirds in the circumpolar flyway is underway.

**Recommendations/actions identified for how to deal with the issues raised in the session:**

- Several examples were provided on how the involvement of stakeholders and observer countries improves the conservation of migratory birds:
  - The involvement of traditional Inuit knowledge in the tackling of problems revolving around the destruction of shorebird breeding habitat by snow geese,
  - Involvement of fishing companies and local government in the development of improved seabird conservation by avoiding by catch in Canada.
  - The development of the Bijagos archipelago as a world heritage reserve by combining expert knowledge and local activities.
- In the East Asian Australasian flyway, involvement of observer countries significantly improved the conservation status of migratory shorebirds. In the upcoming plans of AMBI for 2019 - 2023, ambitious goals are set , and will hopefully be reached by integration of efforts along and between flyways.

**Take home message from the session:**

- Migratory birds are natural connectors between the Arctic and southern observer states. The inclusion of observer states and stakeholders can significantly help to improve the status of migratory birds along the flyway.