

# Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative Africa-Eurasian Flyway Crosswalk<sup>1</sup>

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**Version 1.1: July 2019**

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<sup>1</sup> Funding for this work provided by the Arctic Council Project Support Instrument [PSI](#), which is managed by the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO)

## Table of contents

<b>LIST OF ACRONYMS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>AMBI AFRICAN-EURASIAN FLYWAY CROSSWALK</b> .....	<b>4</b>
PURPOSE .....	4
SCOPE .....	4
METHODS .....	6
ANALYSIS.....	6
<i>General landscape for biodiversity conservation and environmental protection</i> .....	6
<i>Bird conservation landscape</i> .....	9
<i>Overlaps between AMBI and existing frameworks</i> .....	10
RESULTS.....	10
<i>Need for coordination with the European Union and another instruments</i> .....	10
<i>What holes can/does AMBI fill?</i> .....	11
<i>Key identified conservation actions</i> .....	11
STRATEGIC ACTIONS .....	12
NEXT STEPS.....	12
<b>ANNEXES</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> .....	<b>21</b>

## List of acronyms

AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds
AFEU	AMBI African-Eurasian Flyway
AMBI	Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative
CAFF	Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
CWSS	Common Wadden Sea Secretariat
EAFI	BirdLife International's East Atlantic Flyway Initiative
EU	European Union
H2020	European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme
HELCOM	Helsinki Convention
IBA	Important Bird Area
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
LIFE	European Union's Programme for the Environment and Climate Action
MaB	Man and the Biosphere Programme
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
OSPAR	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
PEBLDS	Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife United Kingdom)
SPA	Special Protected Area
UN	United Nations Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WSFI	Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative
WH	World Heritage
WHC	World Heritage Convention

## AMBI African-Eurasian Flyway Crosswalk

### Purpose

The primary objective of this analysis is to compare AMBI's programme objectives and actions with those identified in complementary migratory bird agreements, conservation plans, environmental cooperation frameworks, and development agreements in the African-Eurasian flyway region.

The crosswalk table will assist the AFEU Flyway Committee and the AMBI Steering Group to maximize their efforts, by adding value to on-going activities and existing management frameworks and/or in filling conservation gaps. It will further identify potential cooperation across development initiatives that will assist sustainable development to benefit Arctic species. The crosswalk compares AMBI actions, existing relevant international agreements and frameworks and national commitments.



**Figure 1.** African-Eurasian flyway (Source: CAFF).

### Scope

Due to the geographical extent of the AFEU Flyway (from North-East Canada and Greenland in the West, to Siberia in the East, and South Africa in the South), it was decided to limit the scope of this activity from a strategic point of view. The emphasis was placed in countries that are currently members (Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and Russia) and observers within the African-Eurasian Flyway Committee (France, UK, Spain, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Poland, and

Switzerland) under AMBI<sup>1</sup>, as well as the international environmental cooperation frameworks in which they participate. In addition, Guinea Bissau is included as third country, given that it hosts the most important site for Arctic migratory birds in this flyway (the Bijagós Archipelago, as recognised by its inclusion in the AMBI workplan (with Objective 1 fully committed to the conservation of this site). The AMBI workplan 2015-2019 is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** AMBI workplan 2015-2019 (Provencher et al., 2018).

Objectives	Actions
<b>Objective 1:</b> Secure intertidal non-breeding habitat of Arctic waders in Bijagós Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Action 1:</i> Share experience on World Heritage nomination</li> <li>- <i>Action 2:</i> Strengthen international recognition of the site</li> <li>- <i>Action 3:</i> Coordination of the implementation of the Bijagós component of the AMBI workplan</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 2:</b> Support measures under the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose (LWFG) International Working Group (IWG) to prevent illegal killing of Lesser White-fronted Geese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Action 1:</i> Reduce Lesser White-fronted Goose mortality rates caused by illegal harvest</li> <li>- <i>Action 2:</i> Strengthen conservation efforts for the Eastern main population, by promoting the establishment of an agreed flyway framework as well as a National Working Group in China and increasing cooperation with the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose International Working Group (LWFG IWG).</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 3:</b> Increase quality and quantity of population assessment data of Arctic breeding waders in the African-Eurasian Flyway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Action 1:</i> Improve breeding population estimates for Arctic waders (in High Arctic Eastern Canada, Greenland, Iceland and Russia) in cooperation with the International Wader Study Group.</li> <li>- <i>Action 2:</i> Further strengthen monitoring of Arctic breeding migratory waders at staging and wintering sites by collaborating with the African-Eurasian Waterbird Monitoring Partnership and its Waterbird Fund, using, where applicable, the Integrated Flyway Monitoring Strategy developed under the framework of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative in the East Atlantic Flyway.</li> <li>- <i>Action 3:</i> Facilitate the inclusion of Arctic waders in the coastal monitoring plan of the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Programme (CBMP) currently in development under CAFF, using existing data sources as appropriate.</li> <li>- <i>Action 4:</i> Explore options for using existing platforms to provide for a common database/website for the presentation of Arctic wader tracking data and the promotion of tracking studies.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 4:</b> Improve management of wader sites throughout the African-Eurasian flyway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Action 1:</i> Maintain and improve the inventory of nationally and internationally important sites for Arctic breeding waders in each Range State along the flyway and make this information available through the CSN Tool 2.0 and the AEWA Site Network Review, in collaboration with the International Wader Study Group, the BirdLife IBA/KBA network using existing protocols.</li> <li>- <i>Action 2:</i> Develop and implement or strengthen implementation of site management plans for priority wader sites along the flyway.</li> </ul>

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<sup>1</sup> Canada (member state), although present in the flyway, is excluded from this analysis as it is addressed under the AMBI Americas Flyway crosswalk, whereas India (observer state) is so under the East-Asian Australasian Flyway crosswalk.

## Methods

This exercise concentrated on AMBI's objectives for the AFEU, first laid down in the AMBI 2015-2019 workplan (Johnston et al., 2015), and then updated in the AMBI revised 2015-2019 workplan (Provencher et al., 2018), as shown in Table 1.

The crosswalk exercise had two main objectives:

- Identify how AMBI AFEU objectives and actions compare with identified policies and frameworks specifically targeting migratory birds (Fig. X), particularly, AMBI priority species for the AFEU:
  - o Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)
  - o Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)
  - o Lesser White-Fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*)
  - o Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)
  - o Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)
- Identify how AMBI aligns with other broader biodiversity conservation and appropriate sustainable development frameworks and priorities to examine how AMBI will address larger biodiversity and sustainable development priorities.

In order to accomplish these objectives, the methodology analysed key conventions, policies, and frameworks at the international, regional, EU, and national levels. A total of 79 documents were examined. The complete list of analysed frameworks, conventions, agreements, and policies can be seen in Annex 1 to this document.

## Analysis

### General landscape for biodiversity conservation and environmental protection

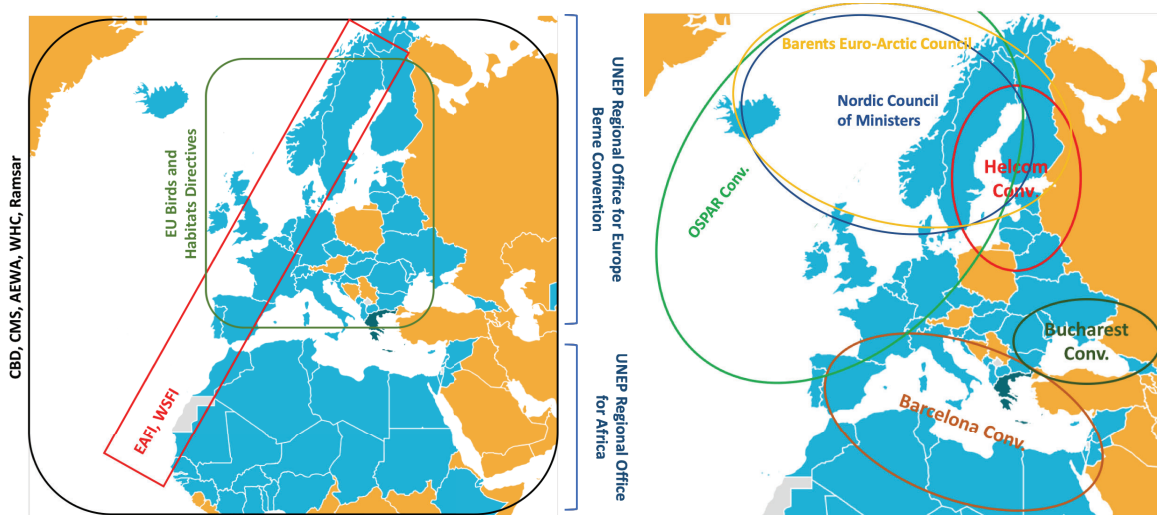
The region has one of the most developed sets of frameworks for intergovernmental cooperation in environmental affairs in the world, with conventions and frameworks operating at multiple levels. Annex 2 lists the countries in the region that are either signatories or parties to conventions that were studied during this exercise.

From the wider perspective to the narrower view, we can observe the following layers of environmental and biodiversity protection instruments:

- **Global MEAs:** International MEAs apply in the region, with few exception to their ratification. CBD, Ramsar, CMS, and WHC are applied throughout the region, with few. UNESCO's MaB Programme enjoys as well of widespread participation in the region. Parties to each of this agreements can be seen on Annex 2.
- **Regional MEAs:** the flyway has two relevant long-standing treaties which confer specific conservation measures for migratory species: the Berne Convention and AEWA.. Furthermore, there are in addition the following treaties with a more restricted geographical range which deserve particular attention:
  - o **Regional sea conventions:** due to the multiple sea basins in the region, which are shared by a remarkable number of countries, four different conventions were created

in order to advance the protection of shared maritime spaces: the OSPAR, Barcelona, HELCOM, and Bucharest conventions, which serve, respectively, the North-East Atlantic, Mediterranean, Baltic, and Black Seas. Each includes its own set of instruments and objectives.

- **The Northern regions:** two main regional cooperation forums appear in the Northernmost part of the region: the Nordic Council of Ministers (grouping Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden), and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (in which Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the EU participate).
- **Biodiversity and flyway initiatives:** concerning initiatives led by non-governmental and multilateral organisations, three main transnational initiatives were identified to be either specific to the region, or applied in it: the Key Biodiversity Area Partnership (a global initiative), BirdLife’s East Atlantic Flyway Initiative, and the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative. Members of these initiatives are shown in Table 2.
- **The European Union:** the EU is one of the leaders for environmental protection across the Globe, being itself a party/signatory of many MEAs. It covers a large expanse of Europe and, therefore, the AFEU flyway, while being an observer of the Barents Euro-Arctic Regional Council. Its two progressive conservation policies (the Birds and Habitats Directives) set the foundation for all biodiversity conservation national policies across the EU, being the basis of the EU Programme for Environment and Climate Action (known as the “LIFE” Programme) and the Natura 2000 Network of protected areas, the largest in the World.
- **National level:** all the countries in the region are signatories of the CBD, and therefore have prepared NBSAPs with different degrees of detail. EU Member States also incorporate the requirements of EU policies into their national legislations, being allowed to reach higher levels of ambitions of they wish to.

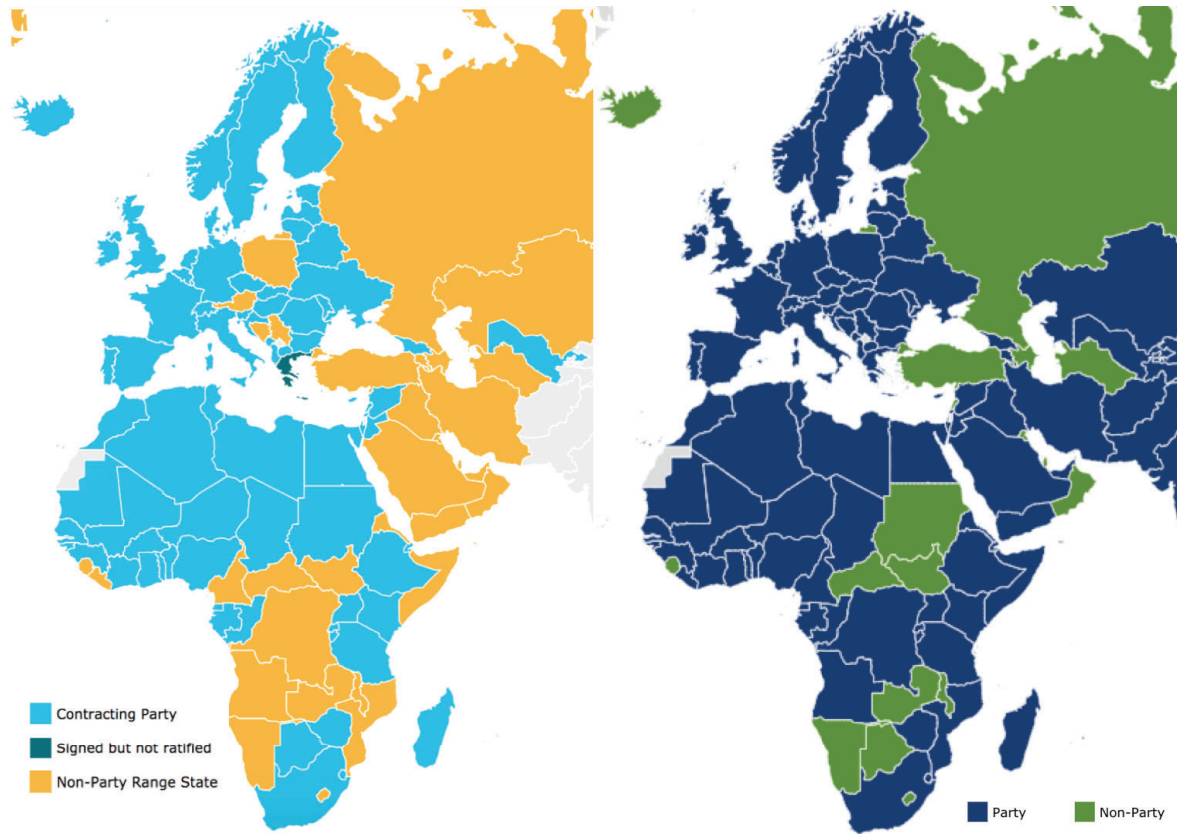


**Figure 2.** Schematic illustration of the geographic overlap of biodiversity conservation frameworks in the African-Eurasian flyway, shown over the AEWA map of parties (blue) and range states (orange).

**Table 2.** Members of key regional biodiversity and flyway initiatives.

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Members</b>
<b>CAFF's Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI), AFEU Flyway</b>	Sergio Rejado Albaina (AMBI AFEU Coordinator, CAFF Secretariat) Anders Braa (Norwegian Environment Agency, Norway) Nicola Crockford (BirdLife International) Nina Mikander (AEWA) David Grémillet (Centre of Ecology and Functional Evolution, France) Gerold Lürßen (Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Germany) Wilmar Remmelts (Nature and Biodiversity Department, Ministry of Economic Affairs, The Netherlands) Andrés Barbosa (National Museum of Natural Sciences, Spain) David Stroud (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, United Kingdom) Courtney Price (AMBI Coordinator, CAFF Secretariat) Evgeny Syroechkovskiy (Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology, Russia)
<b>BirdLife's East Atlantic Flyway Initiative (EAFI)</b>	BirdLife International Vogelbescherming Nederland and other BirdLife partners AEWA
<b>Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Partnership</b>	BirdLife International IUCN Amphibian Survival Alliance Conservation International Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund Global Environment Facility Global Wildlife Conservation NatureServe Rainforest Trust Royal Society for the Protection of Birds WWF Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI)</b>	AEWA BirdLife International National Park Wadden Sea Niedersachsen National Park Wadden Sea Denmark National Park Wadden Sea Schleswig-Holstein Wetlands International WWF Waddensea Provinces of the Netherlands Wadden Sea Municipalities of the Netherlands The Danish Wadden Sea Municipalities Waddenvereniging Vogelbescherming Nederland Schutzstation Wattenmeer Verein Jordsand NLWKN-Staatliche Vogelwarte NABU-Bundesverband NABU Niedersachsen NABU Schleswig-Holstein NABU Hamburg Dansk Ornitologisk Forening Parc National du Banc d'Arguin Institute of Avian Research Ornithologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft Schleswig-Holstein Dachverband Deutscher Avifaunisten WAU-Wissenschaftliche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Natur- und Umweltschutz Mellumrat Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft Niedersächsische Ornithologische Vereinigung

## Bird conservation landscape



**Figure 3.** Left: map showing AEWA parties in the AMBI-AFEU region, including contracting parties, non-party range states (except Canada and, partially, Greenland), and Greece, only country to have signed but not ratified yet (Source: AEWA). Right: CMS parties and non-parties in the AMBI-AFEU area (Source: CMS).

There are three legally binding intergovernmental instruments concerning waterbird (and migratory bird) conservation specific to the AFEU flyway region:

- **AEWA:** the single legally binding agreement for migratory waterbirds in the region, which also acts as the main forum for cooperation and dialogue. Also under CMS, there is the CMS Raptors MoU and CMS African-Eurasian Migratory Landbird Working Group, although they do not cover waterbirds and therefore have no overlap with AMBI.
- **The EU Birds Directive:** the instrument that institutionalizes bird protection in the EU. It includes considerations on migratory birds. In parallel, the Habitats Directive set the other key element of EU biodiversity policy. The EU has prepared its own NBSAP, called the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy. These three instruments act on a coordinated manner through the **LIFE Programme**.
- **The Berne Convention:** this instrument of the Council of Europe, which predated the EU Nature Directives focusses on the protection of nature and wildlife in Europe and beyond (it has some Parties in northern Africa), and shows specific considerations for birds and migratory species.
- Moreover, the **WSFI** and **EAFI** focus concretely on migratory bird conservation along the East Atlantic Flyway.
- The **KBA Partnership** also concerns the region of study. This partnership of conservation organisations aims to identify, map, and document the most important places for life on

earth, fostering targeted conservation actions and informing and influencing public policy and private sector decision-making.

**The Regional Sea Conventions** include considerations for biodiversity and ecosystem protection. However, the only one paying specific attention to birds is the Barcelona Convention through its Protocol Concerning Special Protected Areas and its Action Plan for the Protection of Birds Species.

It is worth highlighting the **absence of concrete considerations concerning birds** in the relevant NBSAPs, instruments of the Nordic Council of Ministers and Barents Council. This is nonetheless balanced within the EU by the overarching framework of the EU Birds Directive. It is also worth highlighting the emphasis placed on knowledge-based management and scientific research and cooperation, ecosystem conservation and restoration, and reduction of mortality through illegal harvest, featured consistently across the NBSAPs. **International cooperation** was specifically mentioned in the NBSAPs of Finland, Russia, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, UK, and Guinea-Bissau, as well as in the Arctic Cooperation Plan of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

#### Overlaps between AMBI and existing frameworks

Annex 3 shows how AMBI aligns with the different international frameworks that have been reviewed, whereas Annex 4 shows alignment with national policies.

## Results

#### Need for coordination with the European Union and another instruments

**The EU** is a key player to engage with, not only due to their leadership role regarding environmental protection at the global level, but also due to:

- The trickle-down policy and legislation effect that EU policies have not only for Member States, but also in neighbouring, non-EU countries, that base their own legislation on EU policy.
- The active and/or observing role of the EU in many global and regional fora regarding environmental protection (such as regional sea conventions for the Mediterranean, Black Sea, Baltic Sea, North-East Atlantic, and Barents Sea), regional development (Barents Council), biodiversity conservation (AEWA, CMS, CBD), and international organisations (including the Arctic Council).
- The EU **H2020 and LIFE** Programmes offer substantial **funding opportunities** for conservation initiatives within and beyond the EU's borders. This is an opportunity to be addressed, especially in coordination and partnership with other initiatives and partners. Besides, it is essential to establish adequate.
- Since 2018, the EU is advancing efforts to integrate biodiversity and wildlife conservation in their development cooperation strategies for Africa and Asia (European Commission 2015, European Commission 2018), which offers key opportunities for partnership, projects, and resource mobilisation.

### What holes can/does AMBI fill?

AMBI aligns with many of the frameworks found in the region concerning biodiversity conservation and environmental protection. Under this evidence, the following key opportunities have been identified for AMBI to fulfil:

- There are **only a few instruments and initiatives specifically targeting birds** in the region: AEWA, BirdLife's EAFI, WSFI, EU Birds and Habitats Directives, and, to a lesser extent, the Berne Convention. These are therefore key partners to engage with.
- The large number of agreements, conventions, and instruments renders it difficult to keep track of which country and organizations are members of what. However, AMBI is the only migratory bird conservation platform that includes **Greenland (through the Kingdom of Denmark), Canada, Russia, and Poland as foundational partners**; missing links in AEWA. AMBI therefore holds the capacity to play a leading role as a connection with these countries, enabling a cooperation and dialogue that is not available through other MEAs.
- Despite the existence of other two flyway initiatives, there is a certain lack of cooperation between all four migratory bird frameworks (AEWA, EAFI, WSFI, and AMBI). AMBI could **take the lead on the coordination of efforts** amongst all these players, fostering a coordination agreement and joint strategic planning and **creating a forum** for coordination of activities along the flyway.
- Given the importance of the EU in the region (through its LIFE Programme, but also through its H2020 funding scheme that covers not only environmental action but also international cooperation), a **liaison role with the EU** must be strengthened.
- Mobilize **technical and scientific expertise** to address capacity needs of partners and provide technical support to the creation and implementation of conservation projects in the field, keeping in mind AMBI's strengths and added value in order to avoid duplication of efforts.
- NBSAPs and other instruments make abundant references to enhancing scientific knowledge for ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation, which aligns with AMBI Objective 3. **CAFF enjoys of relevant expertise** in scientific cooperation across borders, and should capitalize on its own instruments (such as CBMP), as on strong communications expertise to complement and add value to existing initiatives.
- Under normal circumstances, national focal points to the MEAs referred to above are usually environment ministries, except in the case of AMBI which has links, through the Arctic Council, to **Foreign Ministries and their embassies**, with their separate budgets and diplomatic capacity. For the conservation of migratory birds, which depends on international cooperation, thus AMBI provides a vital missing link.

### Key identified conservation actions

AMBI has the potential to enhance implementation of existing initiatives and positively contribute to a significant number of national and regional policies related to migratory birds, especially in relation to sustainable use and to coastal wetland conservation, while enhancing the visibility of migratory birds conservation issues in the region.

The crosswalk has identified some actions that could be addressed by AMBI, which feature in the Excel crosswalk attached to this document. The Excel document features an overview of

objectives of all the instruments considered and a closer look at the instruments themselves. All the objectives, targets, and actions that are aligned with AMBI feature highlighted **in red**.

### Strategic actions

- Use the AMBI 2.0 programming exercise to adequately liaise with partners and stakeholders in the region to find concrete, achievable targets that will deliver added value conservation action for arctic migratory waterbird populations, in synergy with existing frameworks and initiatives.
- For AMBI 2.0, establish targets and actions that operate at appropriate levels in the field-to-policy ladder and address existing gaps in conservation action.
- Capitalize specially on the participation of Canada, Greenland (through the Kingdom of Denmark), Russia, and Poland in CAFF to advance migratory bird conservation efforts in these two missing links of the flyway under other frameworks.
- Capitalize on CAFF's in-house expertise and network of Arctic scientists to advance projects and initiatives at the science-policy interface within and beyond Arctic boundaries.
- Enhance communication and liaison with other international partners that have not been engaged with AMBI yet, and are active players in the region and within the analysed frameworks. Key targets are:
  - o IUCN
  - o Regional sea conventions (OSPAR Convention, Helsinki Convention, Bucharest Convention, Barcelona Convention)
  - o EU (concretely, DG Environment at the European Commission)
  - o European Environment Agency
  - o UNESCO
  - o Berne Convention
  - o UNEP Regional Office for Europe and UNEP-WCMC

### Next steps

- Capitalize on the findings of this crosswalk exercise during the AMBI 2.0 programming exercise and the preparation of its 2019-2023 workplan.
- Enhance dialogue, coordination, and regular meetings with other bird conservation actors and initiatives in the flyway (BirdLife, AEWA, CMS, WSFI, and others) and ensure their active participation and input on the AMBI 2.0 programming exercise.
- Advocate for and advance joint resource mobilization and project development with other key bird conservation actors (BirdLife, WSFI, Wetlands International, AEWA).
- Strengthen liaison and partnership with other key actors relevant to AMBI's objectives and workplan: EU, UNESCO, IUCN, European Environment Agency, UNEP, and others.

## Annexes

**Annex 1.** Complete list of frameworks, conventions, agreements, policies analysed and compared to the AMBI AFEU objectives and actions.

### International initiatives and frameworks

- CBD Strategic Plan 2011-2020 (also referred to as “Aichi Biodiversity Targets”)
- CMS Global Program of Work on Migratory Birds and Flyways 2014-2023
- CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023
- Ramsar Convention 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan 2016-2024
- UNESCO’s World Heritage Convention
  - Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention, 1972)
  - Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention 2012 -2022
- UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MaB) Programme:
  - MaB Strategy 2015-2025
  - Lima Action Plan for UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016-2025)
- Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) Partnership

### Regional conventions, frameworks, and agreements within the AFEU Flyway region

- AEWA Strategic Plan 2009-2017 (extended until 2018)
- AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 (draft document for adoption in December 2018)
- AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027 (draft document for adoption in December 2018)
- Regional strategies of the Nordic Council of Ministers:
  - Nordic Strategy for Sustainable Development “A good life in a sustainable Nordic Region”
  - Nordic Environment Action Plan 2013-2018
  - Generation 2030: Nordic programme for Agenda 2030 - Programme Description 2017-2020
  - Arctic Co-operation Programme 2018-2021
- UNEP’s Pan-European 2020 Strategy for Biodiversity, successor of the Council of Europe’s Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (PEBLDS)
- Council of Europe’s Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention, 1979) and its Programme of Activities and Budget 2018-2019
- Birdlife International’s East Atlantic Flyway Initiative (EAFI)
- Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) Plan of Action 2014-2020
- Barcelona Convention and its following protocols and action plans:
  - Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention, 1976 – 2005 consolidated text)
  - Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) an Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (1995)
  - Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (2008)
  - Regional Working Programme for the Coastal and Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean Sea including the High Sea (2009)
  - Integrated Coastal Management Action Plan 2012-2019
  - Action Plan for the Protection of Bird Species Listed in Annex II of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean Sea for the period 2014-19

- Helsinki Convention:
  - Helsinki Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (HELCOM, 1992)
  - HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan 2007-2021
- OSPAR Convention:
  - Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention, 1992)
  - North-East Atlantic Environmental Strategy (Strategy of the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic 2010–2020)
- Bucharest Convention
  - Convention for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Bucharest Convention, 1992)
  - The Black Sea Biodiversity and Landscape Conservation Protocol (2002)
  - Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea and its Strategic Action Plan for the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Black Sea (2009)
- The Barents Programme 2019-2023 of the Barents Euro-Arctic Regional Council

#### **European Union regulations and policies**

- *EU Birds Directive*: Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds
- *EU Habitats Directive*: Council Directive 92 /43 /EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats of wild fauna and flora
- *EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020*: Brussels, 3.5.2011, COM(2011) 244 final, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020
- *EU LIFE 2014-2020 Regulation*: Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 614/2007
- *EU LIFE multi-annual work programme 2018-2020*: Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/210 of 12 February 2018 on the adoption of the LIFE multiannual work programme for 2018-2020
- *EU H2020 Work Programme 2018-2020*: European Commission Decision C(2017)7124 of 27 October 2017

**National-level** policies and frameworks, covering National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), national reports to the CBD, and other national strategic frameworks related to biodiversity conservation (when required to obtain further information on national targets and goals):

- *Members of the Arctic Council*:
  - Denmark
    - Denmark’s NBSAP v.2, May 2015: “Our Shared Nature”, Danish Nature Policy (2050 vision)
    - 5th Danish Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, March 2014
  - Finland:
    - Finland’s NBSAP v.3, March 2018: “Saving Nature for People”, National action plan for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Finland 2013-2020

- Government Resolution on the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Finland for the years 2012–2020, ‘Saving Nature for People’, December 2012
- Finland’s 5th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, July 2014
- Iceland:
  - “Welfare for the Future”, Iceland’s National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2002-2020
  - Iceland’s 4th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, June 2014
- Norway:
  - Norway’s NBSAP v.4, January 2016: “Nature for life”, Norway’s national biodiversity action plan (2014-2020). *Meld. St. 14 (2015–2016): Report to the Storting (white paper)*
  - Norwegian biodiversity policy and action plan: cross-sectoral responsibilities and coordination. *Meld St. 42 (2000-2001): Report to the Storting*
  - Norway’s environmental goals: <http://www.environment.no/goals/> (Visited: 20 September 2018)
  - Norway’s 5th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, July 2014
- Russia:
  - Russia’s NBSAP v.2, December 2015: Strategy and Executive Plan for the Conservation of Biodiversity within the Russian Federation (2014-2020)
  - Russia’s 5th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, July 2014
- Sweden:
  - Sweden’s NBSAP v.3, June 2016: A Strategy for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2013-2020)
  - Swedish Environmental Protection Agency 2016 *Sweden’s environmental objectives (2016-2020)*
  - Sweden’s 5th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, April 2014
- *Observers to the Arctic Council within the flyway:*
  - France:
    - France’s NBSAP v.2, May 2011: National Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020
    - France’s 5th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, October 2014
  - Germany:
    - Germany’s NBSAP v.2, March 2016: Nature Conservation Action Programme 2020
    - Germany’s 5th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, March 2014
  - Italy:
    - Italy’s NBSAP v.1, December 2010: Italian National Biodiversity Strategy (2010-2020)
    - Italy’s 5th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2009-2013), April 2014
  - Netherlands:
    - The Netherlands’ NBSAP v.4, September 2014: “Natural Capital Agenda, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity” (2013-2020), *Nr. 85 letter from the State Secretary for Economic Affairs and the State Secretary for Infrastructure and the Environment to the President of the Second Chamber of Parliament, The Hague, 22 June 2013*
    - The Netherlands’ 5th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, April 2014
  - Poland
    - Poland’s NBSAP v.3, December 2015: The programme of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity along with Action Plan for the period 2015-2020
    - Poland’s 5th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, March 2014

- Spain
  - Spain's NBSAP v.3, January 2012: Spanish Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity
  - Spain's 5th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, March 2014
- Switzerland
  - Switzerland's NBSAP v.2, May 2012: Swiss Biodiversity Strategy (2011-2020)
  - Switzerland's 5th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, April 2014
- United Kingdom:
  - United Kingdom's NBSAP v.3, August 2011:
    - Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services
    - 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity
    - Valuing Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland 2020
    - The Nature Recovery Plan for Wales: Setting the course for 2020 and beyond
  - United Kingdom's 5th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, May 2014
  - JNCC and Defra on behalf of the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group (4CBG) 2010 UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework
  - JNCC and Defra on behalf of the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group (4CBG) 2018 UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework: Revised Implementation Plan (2018–2020), June 2018
- *Other relevant flyway countries:*
  - Guinea Bissau
    - Guinea-Bissau's NBSAP v.2, May 2016: Strategy and National Action Plan for the Biodiversity
    - Guinea-Bissau's 5th Country Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, July 2014

Annex 2. Signatory countries/parties of international and regional conventions covering the flyway.

Country	CBD	CMS	Ramsar Convention	World Heritage Convention	MaB Programme	AEWA	Bern Convention	OSPAR Convention	HELCOM	Barcelona Convention	Bucharest Convention
<b>Arctic Council member states</b>											
Denmark	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Finland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Iceland	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Norway	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Russia	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
Sweden	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>Arctic Council observer states</b>											
France	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Germany	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Italy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Netherlands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Poland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Spain	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Switzerland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
United Kingdom	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
<b>EU member states</b>											
European Union	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Austria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Belgium	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Bulgaria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Croatia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Cyprus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Czech Republic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Estonia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Greece	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Hungary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Ireland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Latvia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Lithuania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Luxembourg	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Malta	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Portugal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Romania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Slovakia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				

Slovenia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Non-EU Europe													
Albania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Andorra			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Armenia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Azerbaijan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Belarus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Bosnia and Herzegovina	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Georgia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Holy See				✓									
Liechtenstein	✓	✓	✓						✓				
Macedonia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Moldova	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Monaco	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	
Montenegro	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Serbia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Ukraine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Other Mediterranean countries													
Algeria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Egypt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Israel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Lebanon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Libya	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Morocco	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Syria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Tunisia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Turkey	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Other countries													
Guinea-Bissau	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
United States			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				

**Annex 3.** Condensed crosswalk table showing where AMBI objectives align with other initiatives. Number of ✓ indicates how priorities under the regional plans align with AMBI objectives (✓ = indirect alignment, connections based on positive feedback, but no direct contribution, such as specified reference to research needs to improve management, or targeting illegal hunting; ✓✓ = the objectives, although not aligned, reinforce each other, such as protected areas for Lesser White-fronted Goose may be reinforced through Biosphere Reserves and WH sites as part of a network of sites for the protection of the species, ✓✓✓ = complete alignment, objectives match and reinforce each other and/or direct mention to same objectives).

AMBI objective	CBD	CMS	Ramsar	WHC	MaB	KBA	AEWA	Nordic Council	UNEP 2020 Strategy	Berne Conv.	EAFI	WSFI	EU	OSPAR	HELCOM	Barcelona Conv.	Bucharest Conv.
Objective 1: Secure intertidal non-breeding habitat of Arctic waders in Bijagós Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓✓					
Objective 2: Support measures under the AEWA Lesser White-fronted Goose (LWFG) International Working Group (IWG) to prevent illegal killing of Lesser White-fronted Geese	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓		✓	✓	✓
Objective 3: Increase quality and quantity of population assessment data of Arctic breeding waders in the African-Eurasian Flyway	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Objective 4: Improve management of wader sites throughout the African-Eurasian flyway	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓ ✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓

**Annex 4.** Condensed crosswalk table showing where AMBI objectives align with countries' NBSAPs and policies. Number of ✓ indicates how priorities under the national plans align with AMBI objectives (✓ = indirect alignment, connections based on positive feedback, but no direct contribution, such as specified reference to research needs to improve management, or targeting illegal hunting; ✓✓ = the objectives, although not aligned, reinforce each other, such as protected areas for Lesser White-fronted Goose may be reinforced through Biosphere Reserves and WH sites as part of a network of sites for the protection of the species, ✓✓✓ = complete alignment, objectives match and reinforce each other and/or direct mention to same objectives).

AMBI objective	Denmark	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russia	Sweden	France	Germany	Italy	Netherlands	Poland	Spain	Switzerland	UK	Guinea Bissau
Objective 1: Secure intertidal non-breeding habitat of Arctic waders in Bijagos Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau															✓✓✓
Objective 2: Support measures under the AEWG Lesser White-fronted Goose (LWFG) International Working Group (IWG) to prevent illegal killing of Lesser White-fronted Geese	✓	✓✓✓		✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓		✓		✓					
Objective 3: Increase quality and quantity of population assessment data of Arctic breeding waders in the African-Eurasian Flyway	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
Objective 4: Improve management of wader sites throughout the African-Eurasian flyway	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓

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