



MIDCONTINENT SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE (MSCI)

FACT SHEET – Amazon Planning Unit



GEOGRAPHY



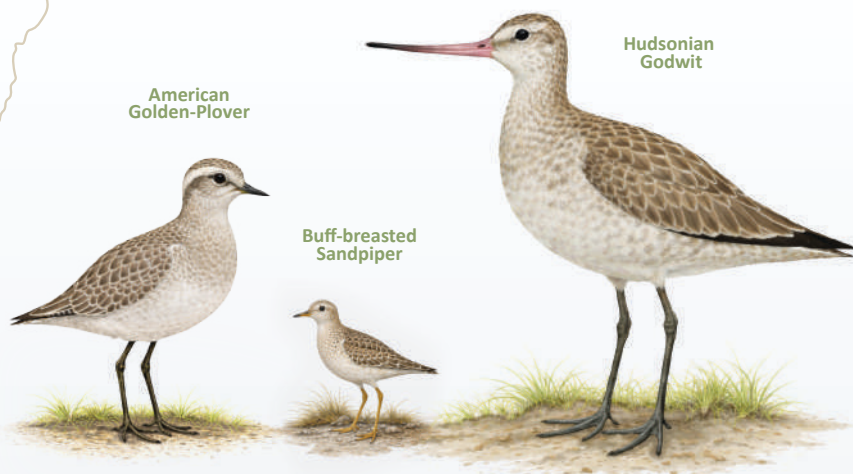
Countries:

-  Venezuela
-  Colombia
-  Bolivia
-  Brazil
-  Peru
-  Guyana
-  Ecuador

Major landscapes: Amazon River Basin riverine habitats, Amazon delta.

Main habitats: Sandbars, rivers, river islands, marshes, wet grasslands.

Other characteristics: The hydrological dynamics of the Amazon are highly variable, changing rapidly and also differing from year to year. During dry periods, for example, sandbars, mudflats and river islands are exposed and provide important foraging habitat for shorebirds; however, during flood seasons, these habitats can disappear entirely.



TARGET / KEY SPECIES

American Golden-Plover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit

MAIN THREATS

This list reflects the highest-ranked threats identified for this planning unit. However, it does not encompass all threats affecting the unit. For a comprehensive assessment of threats and their relative importance, please refer to pages 24-36 of the MSCI Strategic Framework.

Threat Ranking in the Amazon		
Threat	Impacts	Rating
Climate change	Intensifies hydrological variability across the Amazon Basin, altering the timing, duration, and extent of seasonal flooding that sustains riverine sandbars, wetlands, and floodplains. Increased frequency of extreme droughts and floods reduces habitat predictability, disrupts food availability, and limits the suitability of key stopover and non-breeding sites.	Very High
Incompatible water management	Large-scale water infrastructure, including dams, river channel modifications, and altered flow regimes, is fundamentally changing natural flood pulses in the Amazon. These alterations reduce the formation and persistence of sandbars and seasonally flooded wetlands.	High
Oil, gas and mining	Extractive activities, particularly mining and hydrocarbon development, pose growing threats to Amazonian habitats through direct habitat loss, contamination, and infrastructure expansion. Pollution from mine tailings, increased sedimentation, and chemical runoff degrade wetlands and riverine environments used by shorebirds. Additionally, associated road development accelerates deforestation and facilitates land-use conversion, compounding long-term ecological impacts in regions that are already data-poor and difficult to monitor.	High



Hudsonian Godwit
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PRIORITY STRATEGIES AND MAIN OBJECTIVES

To address the complex and interlinked threats affecting shorebirds and their habitats in the Amazon, the MSCI Strategic Framework identifies a set of complementary strategies that operate across scales and sectors. If you are implementing actions in this geography, please consider these indicators to monitor your progress towards achieving your results, and to better understand how you are contributing to implementing the MSCI Strategic Framework.

Examples of objectives and indicators relevant for the Amazon (see www.midamericasshorebirds.org for a complete list of objectives and indicators ^{1,2,3})	
Strategy: Motivate governments to increase conservation capacity ¹	
Objectives	Indicators
Increase and diversify funding and capacity from governments and agencies for shorebird conservation in the Midcontinent Flyway	Number of partners at different levels providing funding and capacity: International agencies (i.e., multilateral and bilateral), National agencies (i.e., federal), Regional agencies (i.e., state/provincial), Local agencies (i.e., municipal)
Mitigate threats to shorebirds and their habitats by enhancing or adopting new laws, regulations, and policies	Number of laws, regulations, and policies adopted or modified to support shorebird conservation
Strategy: Strengthen and catalyze alliances for conservation ²	
Mainstream shorebirds and their habitats as conservation targets into alliances’ goals and objectives	Number of alliances that engage with their members about shorebird conservation on a regular basis
Increase the capacity and effectiveness of alliances and their members to provide appropriate shorebird habitat conditions	Number of alliances that report an increase in understanding of how to support shorebird focused projects
Strategy: Improve knowledge of environmental stressors’ effects and address information gaps ³	
Develop and implement standardized shorebird monitoring protocols across the Flyway	Number of standardized monitoring protocols developed and implemented
Re-assess conservation targets’ population estimates, trends, and key sites at regular intervals as new information becomes available	Number of key sites or priority areas identified for each conservation target

1. See pages 38 and 41 of the MSCI Strategic Framework for a complete list
 2. See pages 42 and 44 of the MSCI Strategic Framework for a complete list
 3. See pages 54 and 56 of the MSCI Strategic Framework for a complete list



Buff-breasted Sandpiper
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Hudsonian Godwit Male
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American Golden Plover
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