Midcontinent Shorebird
CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

MIDCONTINENT SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE (MSCI)

FACT SHEET – Northern Andes Planning Unit

GEOGRAPHY

Major landscapes: Andean wetlands, Páramo, Inter Andean Valleys, cloud forests, Puna

Main habitats: Swamps, marshes, and ciénegas (spongy wetlands associated with seeps or springs), natural grasslands, wet grasslands and seasonally flooded tussock grasslands, peat bogs.

Other characteristics: Exceptionally high and spatially variable precipitation and strong elevational climatic gradients which compress climates over short distances, producing a mosaic of wet valleys, high-elevation wetlands, and inter-Andean basins. The Northern Andes have higher precipitation and primary productivity than the Central-Southern Andes.

Countries:

- Venezuela
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Peru


Pectoral Sandpiper ©Marco Silva


Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe ©Nigel Voaden


Stilt Sandpiper ©Brad Winn


Noble Snipe ©Jei Pov

TARGET / KEY SPECIES

Stilt Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Imperial Snipe, Jameson's Snipe, Noble Snipe, Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe.

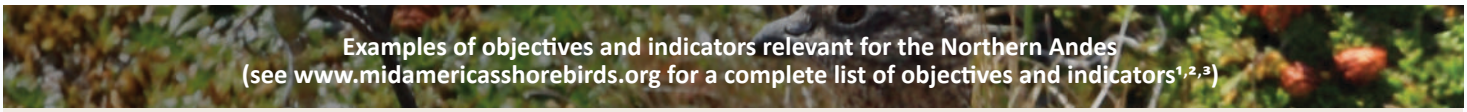
MAIN THREATS

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 Northern Andes		
Threat	**Impacts**	**Rating**
Climate change	Alters hydrological regimes, increasing temperature variability, and shifting precipitation patterns. These changes directly affect high-elevation wetlands, páramo ecosystems, and ciénegas. Increased droughts, extreme rainfall events, and glacier retreat are reducing habitat reliability and seasonal predictability	**Very High**
Habitat conversion and incompatible agricultural practices	Expansion and intensification of agriculture are driving the conversion and degradation of wetlands, grasslands, and páramo landscapes. Drainage, overgrazing, inappropriate cropping, and agrochemical use reduce habitat quality, disrupt hydrology, and increase disturbance.	**High**
Oil, gas, and mining	Direct habitat loss, water contamination, infrastructure development, and increased human disturbance. Mining and hydrocarbon (oil and gas) activities often overlap with high-altitude wetlands and watersheds that are both ecologically irreplaceable and socially vital.	**High**

PRIORITY STRATEGIES AND MAIN OBJECTIVES

To address the complex and interlinked threats affecting shorebirds and their habitats in the Northern Andes, 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 Northern Andes (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**
Investments made for shorebird conservation in the Midcontinent Flyway support national and international conservation goals and objectives	Number (or %) of projects that report a contribution to, Global Biodiversity Framework, Convention on Migratory Species, Ramsar, Convention, Others (e.g., National Shorebird/Biodiversity Conservation Plans)
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: Improve knowledge of environmental stressors' effects and address information gaps[2]	
Study and measure the effects of environmental stressors on conservation targets across their lifecyles	Number of publications on the effects of environmental stressors on conservation targets
Re-assess conservation targets' population estimates, trends, and key sites at regular intervals as new information becomes available	Number of conservation targets for which robust population estimates are available
Strategy: Integrate climate resiliency in conservation planning and implementation[3]	
Develop shorebird habitat models under various climate change scenarios	Number of sites/areas for which habitat models are available
Integrate the effects of climate change in the management of the most vulnerable sites, including through nature-based solutions	Number of sites that have implemented nature-based solutions to increase climate resiliency

1. See pages 38 and 41 of the MSCI Strategic Framework for a complete list
2. See pages 54 and 56 of the MSCI Strategic Framework for a complete list
3. See pages 57 and 59 of the MSCI Strategic Framework for a complete lis

MSCI Contact Information: www.midamericasshorebirds.org
Isadora Angarita-Martinez IAngarita@manomet.org
Benoit Laliberté benoit.laliberte@ec.gc.ca

MANOMET CONSERVATION SCIENCES
CAFF Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna
AMBI Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative
Environment and Climate Change Canada