

Agenda item: Europe Overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change
14.02.2012.

IUCN project summary (BEST 2011 Open Call for Proposals)

Building Partnerships and Awareness of Biodiversity and Climate Change in Europe Overseas for the Future of BEST (Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories)

Duration: 2012-2013 (24 months)

Project team:

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in partnership with the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD);
- With support from Conservation International (CI) Europe, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), the Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union Association (OCTA) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD);
- A unique mix of institutional capacity, expertise, skills and networks from local and national, to European and international level, which will contribute to successful outcomes of the project.

Project aims and objectives

The overarching aim is:

- To strengthen biodiversity conservation and climate change adaption in Europe overseas by raising their profile and generating support for action, and proposing mechanisms to enhance biodiversity and climate change policies and programmes targeted at Europe overseas.

The specific objectives are:

- To strengthen EU level partnership mechanisms, information sharing, networking mechanism for coordinated and informed action on Europe overseas, building on existing initiatives;
- To develop proposals for the sustainability of a BEST initiative, based on initial guidance on the Roundtable, and informed by expert advice on innovative solutions for governance and financial mechanisms;
- To raise awareness and mobilize support for Europe overseas biodiversity and climate change at regional, EU and international levels, showcasing BEST and other Europe overseas initiatives on biodiversity and climate change, thus demonstrating leadership and excellence of Europe overseas in the EU and international fora.

Main project activities and outcomes/impacts

The project will be organized along 3 interconnected activities and result areas (see the Diagram of the project governance and activities below).

(1) Roundtable for partnership and consensus building

Activities:

- Face to face meetings twice a year (March/October 2012 – 2013);

Expected outcome/impacts:

- An open and flexible mechanism able to provide an effective channel for dialogue and consensus building among EU institutions, EU Member States, regional and local institutions on key issues and solutions including the BEST;
- A high level mechanism to provide strategic and political guidance to the implementation of the BEST Preparatory Action;
- The Roundtable will have a critical role in guiding and shaping both the strategic design of BEST, communication and mobilization for ORs and OCTs and BEST, and monitoring of progress on the implementation of the project.

(2) Proposals for the future of BEST

Products:

- Scoping paper (April 2012);
- Consultation with beneficiaries through RT and RT networks (May/June 2012), during 10th OCT-EU Forum (Greenland, September 2012) and possibly ORs Forum (Brussels, July 2012);
- External technical review (September 2012)
- Draft report (December 2012);
- Final report (June 2013).

Expected outcome/impacts:

- An expert report on governance options and financial mechanisms with recommendations to be considered in the future of BEST;
- A proposal for the future of BEST, including consideration of strategic policy objectives, principles and options for implementation modalities (governance and financial mechanisms, communication and awareness raising, capacity building etc.) and a framework for evaluation of its impacts.

(3) Communication, networks and mobilization in support of Europe overseas natural heritage and BEST

Activities:

- Developing communication tools and networks: communications strategy for Europe Overseas and BEST, online discussion group *Europe Overseas Forum* and related web-based information tools, targeted communication and marketing material/promotion products to support achievement of the project aims;
- Developing a business case for generating support for Europe overseas biodiversity and climate change and BEST;
- Mobilizing support for Europe overseas via targeted events:
 - High level event at the European Parliament (September 2012);
 - Island Summit at the CBD COP 11 (October 2012);
 - Event on the Rio Conventions Pavilion on Biodiversity and Climate Change during the UNFCCC COP 18 (December 2012).

Expected outcomes/impacts:

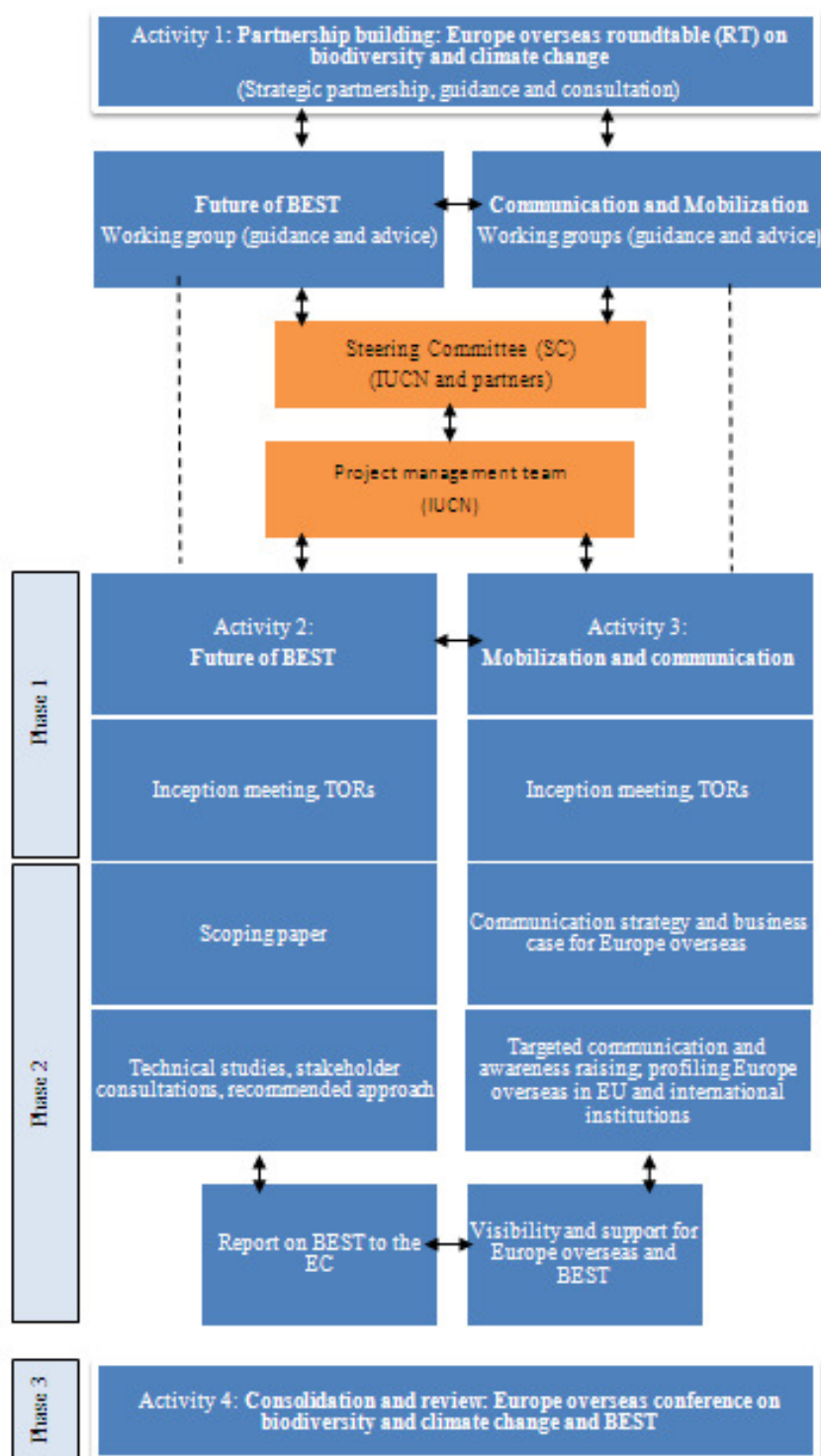
- An informed Europe overseas community, as well as decision makers, on biodiversity and climate change initiatives of relevance, within and across regions and at EU and international levels;
- A communication strategy for Europe overseas identifying key target audiences, messages and actions to promote Europe overseas biodiversity and BEST widely;
- Communication products in support of Europe overseas biodiversity and climate change;
- increased visibility and consideration of Europe overseas biodiversity and climate change at the EU, Europe overseas and international level;
- Exposure of Europe overseas in international discussion on island biodiversity and opportunities to shape the future of island biodiversity conservation;
- Improved understanding of the unique value of Europe overseas to EU commitments on biodiversity;
- Increased communication between the key players at the political and institutional level.

Consolidation of the outcomes

Consolidation of the outcomes of the 3 components of the project is proposed into:

- A clearly articulated **business case** on Europe overseas biodiversity and climate change, which can be used by all Europe actors as a foundation for leveraging partnerships and future collaborations. A number of products will be investigated (June – September 2012)
- A **final conference** on Europe overseas biodiversity and climate change at the European Parliament (November/December 2013).

C1. Diagram: Project governance and activities



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