Europe Overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change

Report of the first meeting

30 June - 1 July 2011, Brussels
Background

The European Union (EU) includes 30 overseas territories: 9 Outermost Regions and 21 Overseas Countries and Territories. They are linked to 6 Member States: Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. Found in every ocean, from polar to tropical latitudes, they are home to a unique diversity of species and ecosystems of global significance, which are highly vulnerable to human impacts and increasingly the impacts of climate change.

This first meeting of the Europe Overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change (Roundtable) was convened at the initiative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its European Union (EU) Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories Programme\(^1\), in accordance with the recommendations of the Conference of the European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to Counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss held on Reunion Island in July 2008.\(^2\)

The Roundtable brings together representatives from EU Member States, the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories, the European Commission and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).\(^3\)

This meeting was convened in light of the recent financing decision of the European Commission (EC) in the framework of the Preparatory Action ‘BEST’ (Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories)\(^4\) and of the on-going In-Depth Review of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)\(^5\).

The specific objectives of this meeting were to:

1. to discuss and agree on terms of reference and coordination arrangements for the Roundtable;
2. brainstorm, recommend and agree on next steps for the future of BEST scheme and strategic response to the current open call for proposals (05/05/2011 – 09/09/2011);
3. recommend a process to engage Europe overseas in global processes, and notably the In-Depth Review of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity of the CBD.\(^6\)

The meeting was opened by Mr Maurice Ponga, Member of the European Parliament (New Caledonia) who emphasized the need for the EU and the international community as a whole to give more consideration to issues of biodiversity and climate change in Europe overseas. Mr. Ponga pointed out that these are the issues of the future and confirmed his personal commitment and pledge to accompany and support Roundtable activities within the European Parliament.

Dr. Hans Friederich, IUCN Regional Director for Europe stressed that the convening of this roundtable is a critical component of the IUCN EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories Programme. Dr Friederich assured that IUCN is committed to facilitating this process, in collaboration with all other stakeholders. He expressed his gratitude to the Government of France for its financial support to the Programme, under whose auspices this meeting has been convened.

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\(^1\) http://www.iucn.org/euoverseas
\(^2\) http://www.reunion2008.eu/
\(^3\) See the list of participant organizations of this meeting in Appendix 2 of this report.
\(^4\) http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/finansup_11_best.htm
\(^5\) http://www.cbd.int/island/
\(^6\) See the agenda of this meeting in Appendix 1 of this report.
Update on the implementation of the Message from Reunion Island

The meeting gave participants an opportunity to share information and views on the main trends, challenges and achievements in biodiversity and climate change in Europe overseas since the Conference of the European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to Counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss held on Reunion Island in July 2008.

Significant progress was noted on a number of important fronts. In the United Kingdom, for example, a new White Paper will be developed in the coming year, which will provide more specific advice, guidance and assistance to Overseas Territories. Funding for the UK’s Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) will be maintained at current levels, while funding for the Darwin Initiative will increase over the next four years.

In the Dutch Caribbean, a management plan for the natural resources of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) has been developed (including the biologically rich Saba Bank), regional cooperation is being encouraged, the study on Climate Change effects on the biodiversity of BES islands: The assessment of the possible consequences for the marine and terrestrial ecosystems and the options for adaption measures has been published and new research initiated, a monitoring structure is being built, and work is being done on payments for environmental services (PES).

In France, two major protected areas have been created in French Guiana and Reunion Island, a new National Biodiversity Strategy has been adopted in 2011 with due consideration to overseas entities, a Strategy on Invasive Species is being implemented, climate change adaptation plans have been formulated, and 2011 has been declared the Year of France Overseas (Année des outre mer).

Greenland’s commitment to and progress in dealing with biodiversity loss and climate change issues were also highlighted at the meeting. The Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union Association (OCTA), prepared a joint submission to the EC to the review of the Overseas Association Decision (OAD), which governs the relationship between the EU and OCTs. The paper was presented jointly with Member States during the last OCTs forum held in New Caledonia, in March 2011. The paper includes a separate pillar on biodiversity and climate change. Greenland also hosted an OCTA workshop on climate change for technical experts in March 2011, and a successful Europe Overseas Info Day organized in Brussels in April 2011 with support from the EC.

For its part, IUCN has pursued and expanded its activities in support of the implementation of the Message from Reunion Island, especially since the launch of a new phase of its EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories Programme in May 2010, with the release of the comprehensive publication on Climate Change and Biodiversity in the European Union Overseas Entities, and with a number of advocacy and communication initiatives targeting Europe overseas and global actors. IUCN efforts also include those aimed at enhancing the participation of Europe overseas in other IUCN global programmes.

An important recommendation of the Message from Reunion Island was to understand better how international multilateral agreements like the CBD, which extend to Europe overseas as part of EU Member States, are implemented. In response to this call, IUCN conducted a review of CBD implementation in Europe overseas Future Directions for Biodiversity Action in Europe Overseas: Outcome of the Review of the Implementation of

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7 The Message from Reunion Island in English, French or Spanish can be downloaded at http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/overseas_about/

8 Available in English, French and Spanish at http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/overseas_publications/
the CBD, December 2010. The report (including the regional perspective), was presented and discussed by the CBD Conference of Parties in October 2010 and was launched on 30 June 2011 on the occasion of this meeting of the Roundtable. It provides a solid contribution of the Europe overseas to the process of the CBD In-Depth Review of the Island Biodiversity POW.

The meeting also heard that civil society organisations have been particularly active since the Reunion Island Conference. Examples presented included the work of the Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO, League for the Protection of Birds), the Birdlife partner in France, which coordinates a LIFE+ CAP DOM project on conservation of priority bird species in French Guiana, Martinique and Reunion Island, in close cooperation with local partners. Experiences of Conservation International, the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF), the IUCN French Committee and other civil society actors were also presented.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) informed the meeting of its significant capacities that can support processes in and with EU overseas entities. It provides a permanent function of information management and knowledge production, developing and maintaining systems that can and should take Europe overseas into account, such as the Biodiversity Information System of Europe (BISE). The EEA, in collaboration with DG CLIMA, is also planning to launch a new EU facility on climate change adaptation measures in early 2012 and, in collaboration with DG MARE, to maintain the European Atlas of the Seas, which also contributes to the management of maritime areas through marine spatial planning.

Agreement

It was clear from the presentations and exchanges among participants that the Message from La Reunion had provided a useful guide to and reference for some of these processes, had helped raise awareness among actors, and had contributed to the EC’s decision to launch and finance the preparatory phase of a BEST scheme.

Participants however also noted a continued mismatch between needs and resources, as well as the challenge of working at the various scales where action is needed to effect change in Europe overseas, from local to regional, national and global. The need for enhanced profile of Europe overseas through communication and continued awareness raising was therefore stressed.
Preparatory action of the BEST scheme

The meeting recognised the opportunities offered by the BEST scheme, which was described as a turning point in the relationship between the EC and EU overseas entities, and the need to ensure that there was a good response to the call for proposals, in order to convey the message that the scheme indeed responds to a real need and that there is both a desire and a capacity to implement the types of actions that the scheme seeks to support. The value of cross-regional cooperation and of working towards collaboration and synergies based on existing connections was also stressed. Participants however noted a number of potential difficulties and challenges, including the short time frame, which makes it difficult for organisations in EU overseas entities to respond to the BEST call in a timely fashion.

In her presentation, the representative from the EC’s DG Environment noted that the EC is expecting and welcoming feedback and recommendations from this group and from all stakeholders concerned. She provided an overview and background to the BEST scheme, the main points being as follows:

- **What is BEST?**
  - a follow up to the Reunion Island Conference of 2008;
  - a voluntary scheme, with the objective to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in European overseas entities;
  - a scheme inspired by the experience in nature conservation in the EU (especially Natura 2000);
  - a proposal built on a number of principles, including: voluntary involvement, local ownership, flexibility, science-based, use of existing mechanisms, and balance between development and conservation;
  - a contribution to the ongoing development of a post 2010 biodiversity strategy at both global and EU level;
  - a scheme that can provide 95% of the budget required for a project, with 5% co-financing to be provided by the applicant or a third party (funds from other EU projects cannot be used for co-financing);
  - a scheme with some administrative constraints, as funds must be committed before the end of 2011;
  - a simplified application procedure;
  - proposals to be evaluated by DG ENV with a pool of evaluators, also involving DG REGIO, DG DEVCO-EuropeAid and an outside organisation;
  - DG ENV to assist applicants who require information and help, with an e-mail address created for that purpose: ENV-BEST@ec.europa.eu.

- **In response to the 2011 open call, proposals should:**
  - implement and showcase BEST, build on existing networks, encourage new partnerships, and prepare the foundation of a governance structure for durable implementation of the BEST scheme beyond the lifetime of the preparatory action;
  - promote regional cooperation, with strategic thinking, synergies, multiple benefits and higher value that can be gained from collaborative efforts;
  - demonstrate a need for a BEST scheme and provide justification for its full establishment following this preparatory phase.

While proposals based on regional collaboration are highly desirable, individual projects from remote areas will also be considered, taking into account their remoteness and specific needs. The special case of uninhabited islands will also be taken into account.

The question of the evaluation of the BEST programme was further discussed at the meeting, noting that it should be designed and done in a structured way so as to extract lessons learned from the individual projects and from the overall process (e.g. response, relevance, or implementation effectiveness). Arrangements for
such an evaluation have not yet been made, and there is no time frame yet for the full development of the BEST scheme.

Following this presentation and the discussion that ensued, participants shared information on initiatives to respond to the open call, and agreed that it would be useful to establish a mechanism to facilitate communication among potential applicants, in order to avoid duplication and to foster collaboration.

**Agreement**

It was therefore agreed that IUCN would set up an informal e-mail discussion group based on Google groups[^13] to enable those preparing proposals to discuss concepts, exchange ideas, create synergies, and seek and build partnerships. Participants in this meeting will constitute the starting list, with the understanding that members can invite other people to join.

**Recommendation**

The meeting further recommended that a mechanism be established to communicate to the EC the relevance and importance of the BEST scheme, and to stress that future decisions should not be based solely on the number of proposals received. The meeting also noted the need for this Roundtable to facilitate political mobilisation and foster cooperation in support of the scheme.

[^13]: [http://groups.google.com/group/best-proposals](http://groups.google.com/group/best-proposals)
The future of the BEST scheme

While recognising that the BEST scheme is at a preparatory stage, the meeting agreed that it would be useful to begin the conversation around the future design and operations of the scheme. Participants therefore broke into two working groups and formulated a number of ideas and recommendations\(^{14}\).

A number of **principles should guide the design of a future BEST scheme**, including:

- facilitating effective coordination, inclusion, networking and interaction between and among stakeholders;
- giving priority to strategic interventions that are capable of making the difference and delivering long-term impacts;
- ensuring complementarity between interventions at various levels (from local to European and global levels);
- using the BEST scheme to leverage additional resources;
- making the scheme flexible, based on needs, with reduced administrative burden and the provision of technical support to help prepare proposals;
- ensuring that overseas entities play a lead role;
- building capacity at both local and coordination levels;
- using a scientific and systematic approach based on the importance and functions of ecosystems (for humans and for biodiversity);
- ensuring that there is mutual accountability.

With respect to the **governance of the BEST scheme**, the working groups concluded that:

- a multi-stakeholder arrangement is desirable;
- overseas entities should be involved and committed;
- arrangements and operations should be transparent and fair;
- any arrangement should consider and support participation at various levels (overseas entities, regions, Europe) and should promote inter-regional cooperation.

A number of **options and recommendations for financing** were identified, including the need for: dedicated funding proportionate with needs and opportunities; a permanent and institutionalised arrangement coordinated by an EC entity, preferably DG Environment, evolving into a specific fund with dedicated sources, including contributions from Member States; a diversification of funding sources; synergies and coordination within the EC and relevant European regional funding (such as ENRTP and Interreg); strategic and targeted allocation of funds in accordance with the principles outlined above; and the possibility for EU Member States to provide funding directly but within the overall framework.

When considering implementation modalities for the BEST scheme, the working groups noted the importance of a coordinated approach to the selection of projects (ensuring that there are synergies and added values from the various levels of implementation); capacity-building as a component of project design and implementation; inter-regional cooperation; effective and efficient use of resources; and adequate monitoring and evaluation of projects and of the overall scheme.

\(^{14}\) The meeting also noted the useful points and recommendations formulated at a meeting of NGOs held in Brussels in May 2011 – see Appendix 4 of this report for the details.
Europe overseas engagement in the CBD In-Depth Review of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity

The representative of the Secretariat of the CBD provided an overview of the Convention in a global context, and noted the timeliness of this meeting, in light of the In-Depth Review of the Convention’s Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity which has been initiated. He also highlighted the fact that all overseas entities are at the same time sub-national government entities that can contribute to the CBD, in accordance with decision X/22 of the Conference of Parties (COP), and that this brings new opportunities but also new responsibilities to EU overseas entities.

The meeting therefore confirmed the important role that Europe overseas can and do play in the implementation of the CBD, and in particular their role as testing grounds for synergetic solutions (climate change, land management, biodiversity, other multi-lateral environmental agreements and development).

The meeting also noted the role of Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)\textsuperscript{15}, working in partnership with the Secretariat of the CBD, as flexible and open platform. GLISPA works to generate high level political leadership in support of islands through challenges such as the Western Indian Ocean Challenge and to raise awareness of islands issues in international fora. Europe overseas could consider launching a similar challenge in order to deepen the engagement of EU overseas in the CBD processes in the lead up to the CBD COP 11.

Recommendations

Potential activities for EU overseas in support of the CBD and the In-Depth Review include:

- Ensuring commitments from EU Member States, with the development of Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans for EU overseas;
- Highlighting the economic value of biodiversity in EU overseas and their national significance, for example through biodiversity and bio-resource assessments;
- Conducting economic valuations of the biodiversity in EU overseas and of its associated ecosystem services, with natural capital accounts and “payment for ecosystem services” policies;
- Promoting regional cooperation with island States and regional partners;
- Mobilising political support at selected events such as Brussels meetings at the margins of EC coordination meetings, side events, Rio+20 Ecosystem Pavilion, IUCN World Conservation Congress, and the Island Summit at CBD COP 11.

\textsuperscript{15} http://www.cbd.int/island/glispa.shtml
Communication and awareness

The roundtable agreed on the critical importance of communications in support of all efforts related to biodiversity and climate change in Europe overseas. The main issues identified were a significant lack of awareness of the biodiversity, both in Member States and in Europe overseas including an insufficient appreciation of the economic value of biodiversity, a lack of awareness and understanding of the term ‘biodiversity’ itself, and a weak political will at all levels. Activities carried out by Member States and organisations present at this meeting were shared and discussed, and they provided exciting and inspiring examples of the types of interventions that are needed at all levels.

It was therefore agreed that there is a need to raise awareness both at the level of Member States about the existence of Europe overseas and the value of biodiversity in these territories, and at the level of overseas entities and their geographic regions about biodiversity.

There is also the need to take existing processes into account, such as the upcoming European Commission discussion with Member States and other actors (in November 2011) on the common framework for implementation of the new EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020\(^\text{16}\), where Member States have an opportunity to streamline and present perspective from their territories.

The main audiences to be targeted in communication initiatives include policy and decision makers at all levels, as well as the general public. Any communication strategy on biodiversity should use a coordinated approach and joint initiatives, it should focus on a small number of simple messages, with clarity on the desired outcomes, and it should span across overseas entities to convey a message on the importance of biodiversity in Europe overseas. At the policy level, there is a particular need for advocacy and mobilisation, especially around BEST and its relevance and usefulness to Europe overseas, to Europe as a whole, and to global biodiversity.

**Agreement**

The meeting therefore agreed to form two groups to work respectively on communication strategy and advocacy strategy.

\(^{16}\) [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5B1%5D.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/pdf/2020/1_EN_ACT_part1_v7%5B1%5D.pdf)
Terms of Reference of the Roundtable

The meeting considered proposed terms of reference for the roundtable prepared by IUCN on the basis of earlier discussions and consultations. There was general agreement on the proposed terms, with the following additions, comments or emphases:

- the Roundtable must be an open, flexible instrument of coordination and facilitation of on-going dialogue among diverse actors. It must seek to develop a community of practice among a wide range of stakeholders concerned with biodiversity and climate change in Europe overseas;
- it must consider political mobilisation and high-level influencing as part of its mission;
- it must be a forum for discussion and exchange, not a decision-making body;
- membership should remain informal, bringing together the diversity of actors (central and local governments, civil society, inter-governmental organisations);
- it must be based on trust and good communication among participants;
- it should define concrete aims and key objectives to be achieved, with reference to existing objectives and commitments such as those expressed in the new EU Biodiversity Strategy or the integrated Maritime Policy, and it should tailor and contextualise these objectives from the perspective of Europe overseas;
- it must be a conduit to give voice to the overseas entities, their concerns and their priorities;
- BEST can and should provide the initial focus for the work of the Roundtable;
- IUCN should continue to serve as convener and secretariat for the Roundtable;
- umbrella organisations such as OCTA should play a special role in facilitating communication between their members and the Roundtable;
- the Roundtable should consider strategic alliances, for example with the Conference of Maritime and Peripheral Regions;
- existing networks should be used and mobilised to facilitate communication and participation;
- the Roundtable could use video/teleconference, Google groups and other electronic media for future meetings and communication between meetings;
- the Roundtable will need a broader platform of financial contributors, not just France as is the case at the moment. There is a need to diversify the contributors to ensure durability and increase impacts;
- regional Roundtables would be useful, as a way to build capacity in the regions and to engage, collect and collate information across Member States within the regions (one option would be to do this under the umbrella of OCTA).

Agreement

It was agreed that IUCN would revise the terms of reference on the basis of these comments and recommendations, and would circulate them for further discussion and eventual adoption.
Conclusion

**Key messages**

The participants of the meeting concluded that there are a number of key messages that they wished to record and disseminate:

1. Presenting the Roundtable, its purpose and its composition to a wide range of stakeholders;
2. Welcoming BEST and stressing the importance of EU overseas entities for the EU Biodiversity Strategy;
3. Confirming that BEST is a very significant first step, which must be built upon and expanded;
4. Encouraging the sustainability of the mechanisms and the institutionalisation;
5. Promoting three key concepts – cooperation, technical support and capacity building;
6. Relating current and future action the Message from Reunion Island;
7. Stressing the importance and added value of Europe overseas, and using facts and figures to convey this message;
8. Including the reference and timely relevance of the BEST to the current EU budgeting and other EU processes;
9. In all communications and actions, highlighting the link between people, economics and nature.

**Main action points**

The participants of the meeting agreed to the following main actions:

1. IUCN to disseminate the outcomes of this meeting, with a cover letter to accompany these minutes. The letter and minutes should be distributed widely to all stakeholders;
2. IUCN to convene the next meeting in September. Agenda to include a letter in support of BEST and lobbying strategy, as well as proposed ‘declaration’ of the Roundtable (1 page document);
3. Following the September meeting, IUCN to send a high-level letter to the decision makers in support of the BEST scheme;
4. IUCN and Conservation International to convene (on 8 July) a meeting to continue the discussion on communications and refine recommendations;
5. IUCN to set up a meeting on an advocacy strategy ahead of next Roundtable meeting;
6. All participants to support members of their networks in the development of BEST proposals;
7. IUCN and others to explore potential sources of support to the Roundtable and the overall IUCN EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories Programme;
8. IUCN to set up an informal discussion group based on Google Groups for BEST proposal development;
9. IUCN to consult and involve other organisations when developing the proposal on future of the BEST scheme – by the end of July-early August to circulate an outline;
10. All to circulate to IUCN links and relevant documents to add to the report on the meeting, as well as communications materials and publications to be shared on the IUCN website;
11. All participants and other invitees encouraged to join and participate in Europe Overseas Forum, an informal e-mail discussion forum based on Google Groups, to advance biodiversity and climate change action in Europe overseas and their regions;
12. IUCN to make presentations of this meeting available online;
13. IUCN to arrange a bilateral meeting with EEA to discuss future collaboration for Europe overseas.

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17 More information on the Europe Overseas Forum can be found at [http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/?7087/joineof2](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/?7087/joineof2) or the group can be visited online at [http://groups.google.com/group/europe_overseas_forum](http://groups.google.com/group/europe_overseas_forum).
Appendix 1: Agenda of the first meeting of the Roundtable, 30 June to 1 July 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Objective/Outcome</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13:15</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Mr Maurice Ponga, Member of the European Parliament (New Caledonia)</td>
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<td>Dr Hans Friederich, IUCN</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:15</td>
<td>Objectives of the meeting, endorsement of the agenda, logistics etc.</td>
<td>Ms Dominique Benzaken, IUCN</td>
<td>Objectives and agenda endorsed</td>
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<td>Mr Yves Renard, Facilitator</td>
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**SESSION 1: UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MESSAGE FROM REUNION ISLAND**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Objective/Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Overview of achievements</td>
<td>Ms Dominique Benzaken, IUCN</td>
<td>Summary of activities to implement the Message from Reunion Island (2008-2011), including IUCN programme and role of the Roundtable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Introductions, feedback and expectations</td>
<td>Mr Yves Renard, Facilitator</td>
<td>Fill in the summary of achievements and feedback</td>
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<td>Consensus on expectations from this meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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**SESSION 2: PREPARATORY ACTION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION’S BEST SCHEME**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Objective/Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16:15</td>
<td>Setting the scene: The BEST preparatory action</td>
<td>Ms Katarina Grgas Brus, European Commission DG ENV</td>
<td>Background to BEST and expectations</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:45</td>
<td>Feedback</td>
<td>All participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:15</td>
<td>Introduction to Session 5</td>
<td>Ms Dominique Benzaken, IUCN</td>
<td>Document: Short paper for discussion</td>
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**LAUNCH OF THE IUCN REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD IN EUROPE’S OUTERMOST REGIONS AND OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Objective/Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18:00</td>
<td>Cocktail</td>
<td>Dr Hans Friederich, IUCN</td>
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<td>Mr Oliver Hillel, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)</td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>Agenda Item</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>SESSION 3: THE FUTURE OF BEST</strong></td>
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<td>8:15</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Introduction to the break out group work</td>
<td>Mr Yves Renard, Facilitator</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15</td>
<td>Break out group 1: Strategic directions and implementation</td>
<td>Mr Yves Renard, Facilitator</td>
<td>Discussion of strategic priorities, options for governance, possible modalities, national/regional, implementation, financial instrument etc.</td>
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<td>10:15</td>
<td>Results to Plenary</td>
<td>Mr Yves Renard, Facilitator</td>
<td>Recommendations</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Break out group 2: Response to the BEST call for proposals</td>
<td>Mr Yves Renard, Facilitator</td>
<td>Discussion of proposed concepts, identification and coordination of possible collaborations</td>
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<td>12:00</td>
<td>Results to Plenary and next steps</td>
<td>Mr Yves Renard, Facilitator</td>
<td>Recommendations and next steps</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>SESSION 4: IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE ISLAND BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>Status of the CBD process and timelines</td>
<td>Mr Oliver Hillel, SCBD</td>
<td>Update on the review process and engagement of Europe overseas</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Implementation of the CBD in Europe overseas: Opportunities and challenges</td>
<td>Ms Dominique Benzaken, IUCN</td>
<td>Findings of the IUCN review of the implementation of the CBD in Europe overseas</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Discussion of a process for engaging Europe overseas in the review and next steps</td>
<td>Mr Yves Renard, Facilitator</td>
<td>Recommendations to CBD Secretariat, Europe overseas, IUCN and others</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>SESSION 5: FUTURE OF THE EUROPE OVERSEAS ROUNDTABLE &amp; COORDINATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MESSAGE FROM REUNION ISLAND</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15:45</td>
<td>Future directions for the implementation of the Message from Reunion Island</td>
<td>Ms Dominique Benzaken, IUCN</td>
<td>Guidance on what strategic directions for implementation of the Message from Reunion Island (2011 and onwards)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00</td>
<td>Coordination: TORs for the Roundtable and more broadly coordination of the implementation of the Message from Reunion Island</td>
<td>Mr Yves Renard, Facilitator</td>
<td>Agreement on TORs and overall coordination arrangements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Concluding remarks and next steps</td>
<td>Ms Dominique Benzaken, IUCN</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17:30</td>
<td><strong>Meeting close</strong></td>
<td>Mr Yves Renard, Facilitator</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 2: Participant organizations of the first meeting of the Roundtable, 30 June to 1 July, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Action Europe/French Outermost Regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>BirdLife/League for Protection of Birds (France)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Conservation International - Europe</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Eurodom/French Outermost Regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>European Bureau for Conservation and Development</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>European Commission DG DEVCO-EuropeAid</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>European Commission DG ENV</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>European Commission DG REGIO</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>European Environment Agency (EEA)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>European Parliament (EP)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Facilitation and management services/Green Park Consultants GPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>French Development Agency (AFD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Government of New Caledonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Greenland Representation to the EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>IUCN French National Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation of the Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Overseas Countries and Territories of the EU Association (OCTA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Portuguese Permanent Representation to the EU - Azores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Apologies:
Appendix 3: List of the Roundtable meeting and background documents

*Message from Reunion Island (2008):*

http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/080711_reunion_msg_en_1.pdf (English);
http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/080711_reunion_msg_fr_4.pdf (French);

*BEST:*

1. Information regarding the Open call for proposals (05/05/2011 – 09/09/2011) in the framework of the Preparatory Action ‘BEST’ (Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories):

2. The European Commission Decision (01/03/2011) concerning the adoption of a financing decision for 2011 in the framework of the Preparatory Action ‘BEST’:
   http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/pdf/wp_best.pdf (English);

3. Draft concept note of BEST (05/2010):

*EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020:*

1. Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions on Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (Nr. COM(2011) 244 final, 03 May 2011):
   http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm (English, French, Spanish);

   http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm (English, French, Spanish);


*CBD Aichi biodiversity targets:*

http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/ (English, French, Spanish).
Appendix 4: NGO perspective on the future of the BEST scheme

Suggested BEST intervention areas: Outcomes of the NGO Consultation meeting on the BEST scheme convened by IUCN in collaboration with BirdLife and Conservation International on the 6 May 2011 in Brussels.

BEST should be based on 3 pillars:
- Global public goods;
- Ecosystem services;
- Ecosystem based adaptation.

BEST projects should tackle 5 globally recognized threats:
- Invasive species;
- Habitat destruction;
- Pollution;
- Over exploitation;
- Climate change.

Suggested intervention areas include:
- Demonstrative sites / network;
- Ecosystem services;
- Regional cooperation:
  - among overseas entities;
  - among overseas entities and ACP countries;
  - cross-regional.

Questions arising from this consultation include:
- Need and opportunity of using a unified methodology;
- Need to define mutual commitments;
- Scale of commitment.