Proposal for a workshop on

« Strategic priorities for biodiversity and climate change in Europe overseas »

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Historical origins

• French European Union Presidency: Organization of the Conference “European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to Counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss” Reunion Island, 07-11 July 2008 (450 experts)

The first opportunity for working on the European scale and the final adoption of « the Message from Reunion Island »:
60 recommendations but no strategic objectives at the European level to guide decisions makers at all operational levels

• Following up the Message from Reunion Island
The « Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of Europe Overseas » (BEST scheme)

• The decision of the French CIOM in November 2009 to promote event(s) to amplify the Message from Reunion Island’s recommendations with an insular and regional approach
Present context

- The new international targets issued in 2010 from the last CBD and Durban conferences and the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol (ABS),

- The recent adoption of the new European strategy on biodiversity (integrating for the first time overseas territories and the oceans),

- The creation of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES),

- The international financial crisis and its consequences on States financial resources for biodiversity and climate change,

- The renewal of the overseas decision association (ODA) between EU and OCTs and the next programming EU period (11th EDF 2014-2020 and for Outermost Regions 2014-2020).

CONSEQUENCE

The necessity to definite/adopt a strategic (and operational) framework for the action during the period 2013-2020

(in relation with Nagoya and European date lines)
French proposal

Proposal

• Organize a two-day technical and expert workshop in September/October 2012 for the adoption of this strategic and operational framework,

• Official presentation of results in November 2012 during the event in the European Parliament (by MEPs like Mr. Ponga or eventually a ministerial segment?)

Principles

• The future framework would be developed with all Europe’s overseas actors,

• It will build on all that is done since July 2008 and build in interaction with the development of the BEST Scheme and other European, national and local initiatives,

• It would propose future direction and priorities of action for the period 2013-2020 - based on the recommendations of the Message from Reunion Island and taking into account current and future opportunities.
Proposed approach

A steering committee is proposed, including 10 to 15 persons: Experts, NGOs, civil society, local and national authorities, Commission DGs, . . .

Its responsibility:
- the preparation of the workshop / logistics and agenda,
- the organization and conduction of the work (including the possible expert work groups),
  the consultations and the final synthesis,
- the elaboration of the final document, after the workshop, for the Parliament event,
- the organization of the participation to this event,
- the following steps after 2012.

Members of the Europe Overseas Roundtable interested in participating and/or collaborating with the committee are welcome.

The Europe Overseas Roundtable will have the opportunity to review the proposal, including an informal discussion paper to inform workshop deliberations.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION