

## **Annex 4: Non Paper: proposal for the constitution of a group dedicated to the creation of a sustainable partnership building on the BEST preparatory Action**

*(as discussed during meeting, without suggestions made during the 9<sup>th</sup> Roundtable meeting)*

### **NON PAPER**

#### **Proposal for the constitution of a Group dedicated to the creation of a Sustainable Partnership building on the BEST Preparatory Action**

*Based on the discussions during informal meetings in Brussels in March 2015 (ad hoc after the 7<sup>th</sup> EU Overseas Roundtable), September 2015, June 2016 and February 2017.*

As a follow-up to the [Message from Reunion Island](#) resulting from the 2008 Reunion Conference dedicated to “*The European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss*”, the Europe Overseas Roundtable was created in 2011 in order to provide an EU-wide flexible and informal instrument for dialogue, exchange and coordination among all Europe overseas actors. The members of the EU Overseas agreed to further discuss and to support the setup of the BEST political Group as indicated in the [Message from Guadeloupe](#) from the “*International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change*” 2014. This note sums up the outcomes of the discussions of the EU Overseas Roundtable informal group dedicated to the BEST Group.

#### **Objectives of the Group**

Overall objectives of the BEST Group are clearly described in the [Message from Guadeloupe](#), which specifically calls for building a sustainable partnership:

#### *Strategic orientation:*

- *Build on the BEST preparatory action by setting up a sustainable partnership dedicated to biodiversity, ecosystem services and climate change in the ORs and OCTs. This partnership shall be committed to the establishment of an inclusive and representative management structure and shall:*

#### *Operational actions:*

- *Secure support from various donors, financial instruments and programmes,*

- exploring in particular the development and use of trust funds;*
- *Have a special but not exclusive focus on small entities and non-governmental organisations;*
  - *Support regional collaboration;*
  - *Act in an inclusive and flexible manner.*

The Group will have to work both at technical, strategic and political level, with meetings at two levels depending on the content of the discussions:

- A) At expert level with a role of strategic coordination to discuss technical issues. It should assess the available options for the Sustainable Partnership based on a cost/benefits analysis and on technical documents. Based on this work, it shall propose recommendations on the most suitable format for adoption.
- B) At decision-making level to set up the Sustainable Partnership, based on the work of the strategic coordination group at expert level.

In both cases representativeness of different stakeholders mentioned in the Message from Guadeloupe<sup>1</sup> should be ensured.

### **Composition of the Group**

#### ***The group will be two-fold with one political group and one technical group***

The **political group** should be more restrictive in numbers to allow decision-making and be composed of:

- 1 representative per Member State (MS), i.e. 6 MS representatives in total
- 1 representative per EC DGs with a link to BEST
- 2 representatives of the EP: 1 coming from OCT + 1 coming from OR
- 1 representative OCTA chair and 1 representative of OR Conference chair

#### **Observers at political level:**

Representatives of the civil society, representatives of European and international development banks can take an observing role during the political meetings of the Group, in which they are able to listen and comment but not take part in the decision-making process.

#### **The technical group:**

- 1 representative per Member State (MS), i.e. 6 MS representatives in total
- 1 representative per EC DGs with a link to BEST
- 2 representatives of the EP: 1 coming from OCT + 1 coming from OR
- 1 representative per OCT
- 1 representative per OR

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<sup>1</sup> Message from Guadeloupe extract: “A group should be convened utilising the support of the political leaders of the ORs and OCTs with the mandate to set up this voluntary partnership, including representatives of ORs, OCTS, Member States, the European Commission, European Parliament, European investment and development banks and civil society.”

- representatives of civil society and local civil society
- representatives of private sector
- 1 representative of financial institution

The technical group should define and assess options for the setup of a voluntary partnership, which should then be politically endorsed. The work should be based on the existing documents and proposals elaborated within the framework of the BEST Preparatory Action, in particular the business case<sup>1</sup> which was developed by the BEST Facilitation project (Business case<sup>2</sup>) as well as lessons learnt from BEST 2.0 and BEST RUP.

### **Leadership of the Group:**

- 1 president: 1 representative of the EC
- 2 vice presidents (VP): 1 MEP coming from OCT and 1 MEP coming from OR.

### **Secretariat:**

The tasks of the secretariat include:

- planning and organizing meetings (booking venue, sending invitations)
- preparing meeting reports
- circulating comments
- updating documents
- ensuring exchange of information between technical and political-level group

EBCD is suggested for running the secretariat.

### **Decision making process:**

Consensus will be sought and is the preferred option. In the case where no consensus can be reached the option which is preferred by the majority shall be used.

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<sup>2</sup> Business case on the future of BEST is available online for download at: [http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/europe\\_overseas/overseas\\_about2/best\\_euoverseas/](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/europe_overseas/overseas_about2/best_euoverseas/)