



Europe Overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change

Report of the 10th meeting

29th November 2017,
EC DG ENV – Avenue de Beaulieu 5, 1160 Auderghem/ Bruxelles, Belgium



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AfD	Agence Française pour le Développement (<i>French Development Agency</i>)
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPF	Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund
DG	Directorate General
DG ENV	European Commission DG for Environment
EC	European Commission
EP	European Parliament
EU	European Union
FRCT	Fundo Regional para a Ciência e Tecnologia (Regional Fund for Science and Technology)
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IFRECOR	Initiative Française sur les Récifs Coralliens (French Initiative for Coral Reefs)
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IYOR	International Year of the Reef
MAES	Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services
MPA	Marine protected area
MS	Member State(s)
OCT	EU Overseas Country and Territory
OR	EU Outermost Region
UKOT	United Kingdom Overseas Territory

Introduction

The 10th meeting of the Europe Overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change (hereafter Roundtable) took place on November 29, 2017 at the premises of the European Commission Directorate for Environment and was attended by 36 participants. The agenda of the meeting is provided in [Annex 1](#) and the list of participants in [Annex 2](#). The full presentations and other meeting documents of this Roundtable are available for download on the [Europe Overseas Roundtable](#) website.

The Roundtable is a follow-up of the first European conference dedicated to EU Overseas Biodiversity and Climate that took place in La Reunion (2008), followed by the International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate change in Guadeloupe (2014). The purpose of the Roundtable is to provide a flexible and informal instrument for coordinating dialogue and exchange among all European Overseas actors, including representatives of the EU Outermost Regions (ORs), the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), their Member States (MS), the European Commission (EC), the European Parliament (EP), the civil society and other relevant stakeholders and experts. The Roundtable aims to facilitate and advocate for the appropriate consideration of biodiversity and climate change issues in the ORs and OCTs in the EU, regional and international policies and programmes, as well as the mobilization of resources for all ORs and OCTs.

Ms Carole Martinez, IUCN's Programme Coordinator for Regional Seas, EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories and Coordinator of BEST III, BEST 2.0 and BEST RUP, opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and presenting the meeting agenda.

1. Monitoring of the message from Guadeloupe

Ms Carole Martinez reminded participants that the monitoring of the message from Guadeloupe had been discussed during previous Roundtables and that a sub-group had been established to steer the process and discuss the appropriate methodology to be used for the monitoring. These discussions led to the development of an online survey that was circulated to relevant actors with the kind support of OCTA and the ORs President Conference. The contributions were analysed by Yves Renard.

Mr Yves Renard reminded that the purpose of the "monitoring" was to give a picture of the new initiatives/actions that have been taken in the EU Overseas since the 2014 Conference in Guadeloupe and that are consistent with the Message from Guadeloupe. It should not be seen

as an evaluation exercise, but rather a way to enable progress to be measured and gaps to be identified.

The first online survey, circulated in April 2016, elicited only 2 responses. As a result a more succinct version of the survey requesting only basic information about new initiatives/actions and how they respond to the Message from Guadeloupe was subsequently developed and circulated in 2017. A total of 17 responses were received - several from a single respondent – providing useful information but not a complete picture.

A desk-based study for the territories of Bonaire and New Caledonia was undertaken to complement the information received via the survey responses showed that there are a lot of new actions and initiatives.

As a next step it is proposed to compile information for each territory through desk-based research and to share this with the relevant actors to validate and provide missing information.

Discussion

A representative of French Polynesia expressed surprise that no response was received for the territory and requested more information as to how the survey was. It was clarified that the first solicitation was made via OCTA with a request that the survey was sent to territorial authorities.

It was indicated that the requirement for monitoring is contained within the Message from Guadeloupe itself. The exercise is being undertaken to promote the actions taken by all actors within the territories themselves, as well as to other territories and at the EU level.

It was indicated that the French Government has elaborated a table in order to monitor its own commitments. This work is going-on and will be updated as well in the coming months.

There was a question regarding the availability of a baseline showing the situation before the conference to use as a comparison. It was clarified that as a baseline there is a report of the Message from la Réunion implementation.

There was a suggestion to use existing reports such as national reporting to the CBD to inform this exercise, however, it was highlighted that the reports are prepared at the national and not the territorial level and that it is not straight-forward to separate ongoing initiatives from new initiatives.

2. 3rd EU Overseas Biodiversity and Climate Change Conference

Participants were asked to express their opinion regarding the need for and relevance of a 3rd conference on EU Overseas biodiversity and climate change. It was reminded that the 1st conference was held in 2008 in Reunion Island and the 2nd conference was held in Guadeloupe in 2014. The Message from Guadeloupe targeted 5 key areas and included specific targets to be achieved by 2020.

It was noted that the new EC Multi-annual Financial Framework will be adopted by 2020, and hopefully a sustainable partnership for biodiversity in the EU Overseas, thus it could be a very timely opportunity for a 3rd conference.

Once a date is decided a call for hosting the conference will be launched. As the 2 previous conferences were hosted by French territories, it was indicated that another Member State could take on and host the next one.

Participants were encouraged to start thinking about practical details in regards to the potential conference e.g. venue, timing, themes etc.

3. Vulnerability studies in the EU OTs: Anguilla Case Study

Jamie Williams from Environment Systems and Elena Palacios from Wolfs Company presented the vulnerability studies that their organisations were commissioned to undertake in the UKOTs by the UK Government. It was explained how the studies can inform trade-offs between tourism development and the environment. Using remote sensing to determine the physical characteristics of the environment and knowledge as to how certain ecosystems can reduce risk (e.g. the dissipation of waves by coral reefs) modelling can be used to determine areas at risk and to see how this changes in response to changes to the environment (e.g. degradation of coral reefs). This can enable the value of natural capital to be taken into account in decision-making.

In the studies avoided damage to properties was used to estimate the value of ecosystems by comparing vulnerability with the ecosystem intact and in a degraded state. It was acknowledged that this approach will underestimate the value as it doesn't capture all of the costs. This work can inform spatial planning, disaster planning & management, environment policy creation and risk reduction.

Discussion

There was a question as to whether figures exist for the cost of restoration of certain ecosystems in order to demonstrate the value of these activities. It was indicated that this is quite complex but that there are costs in terms of developing hard infrastructure in relation to the loss of tourism value that have to be considered when comparing these options to the services provided by ecosystems.

In response to a question as to whether the validity of the models will be examined by looking at the actual damage caused by the recent hurricanes in the Caribbean region it was explained that further work has been funded to study the effects post hurricane Irma to validate the models developed.

4. MAES Pilot Project Inventories in EU Overseas

Note: This item was moved from later in the agenda.

Participants were informed of a recent open call for proposals launched by the European Commission DG ENV to select a pilot project for MAES in the EU Overseas. The full title of the tender is *"Mapping and Assessing the state of Ecosystems and their Services in the Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories: establishing links and pooling resources"* (Reference: [ENV/2017/CFP/MAES-OR-OCT](#)) and the deadline for submissions was November 07, 2017.

It was indicated that one proposal will be selected with the successful applicant announced early in 2018. The available budget is €1 million - reduced from an originally foreseen budget of €2 million – with a further pilot project foreseen for 2018 to provide an additional €1 million intended as follow-up funding should the selected project be successful. The successful project should link to the work on MAES in the EU which has been ongoing for a number of years.

Discussion

José Azevedo informed the participants that FRCT is leading a consortium that submitted a response to the call for proposals explaining that the consortium includes as far as possible representatives from all regions. He highlighted the need for the project to include case studies of 4 regions in addition to a number of other tasks and explained the consortium's proposed approach of identifying what is currently taking place in each region, what are the gaps and

what are the needs on the ground and using this information to inform the selection of the case study regions. The consortium's approach will look to develop joint projects between regions to develop research and policy level links that are sustainable beyond the end of the funding.

DG Research and Innovation highlighted the [ESMERALDA](#) project which is working on MAES at the EU continental level and [BiodivERsA](#) which is a network of national and regional funding organisations promoting pan-European research on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and offering innovative opportunities for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity.

A number of upcoming funding opportunities through DG Research and Innovation were highlighted including a call entitled "[Mobilising Research Excellence in EU Outermost Regions](#)". Below is a list of other opportunities that might be of interest to the EU Overseas, although not specifically targeting them, which was circulated following the meeting:

2018:

LC-CLA-03-2018: Climate change impacts in Europe

SC5-11-2018: Digital solutions for water: linking the physical and digital world for water solutions

SC5-17-2018: Towards operational forecasting of earthquakes and early warning capacity for more resilient societies

2019:

LC-CLA-06-2019: Inter-relations between climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem services

SC5-13-2018-2019: Strengthening international cooperation on sustainable urbanisation: nature-based solutions for restoration and rehabilitation of urban ecosystems *[cooperation with CELAC countries foreseen in the 2019 call]*

5. CARI'MAM - Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network

Phénia MARRAS-AIT RAZOUK from the French Biodiversity Agency (AFB) presented an overview of the CARI'MAM project. The project builds on the Agoa Sanctuary of French territories in the Caribbean which was formalized in 2010 and recognized as a Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife from the SPAW protocol since 2012. It aims to protect marine mammals and their habitats and has a management board that includes representatives from the territories to ensure local governance. The project aims at networking within marine protected areas dedicated to the conservation of marine mammals in the Greater Caribbean

and beyond and has established a large partnership for cooperation. Activities include networking, capacity-building and building knowledge (sharing data, developing common databases and monitoring strategies).

One of the major challenges is the different status of the territories in the region ORs, OCTs, 3rd countries in the region and 3rd countries outside the region. These different territories are eligible for different sources of funding making coordination challenging.

It was noted that the [Transatlantic MPA Network](#) funded by EU is an interesting initiative which has established twinning between MPA managers.

Discussion

There was a question on whether the project has worked with local authorities including in French Guyana. It was reminded that representatives from the territories are in the management board of the Agoa Sanctuary. It was questioned as to whether this is sufficient and an opinion was expressed about the necessity to find other ways to mobilize local authorities.

It was reminded that French Polynesia established a marine mammal sanctuary more than 30 years ago and that it was the first country to forbid shark fishing.

Participants were informed that CEPF has started the process of updating the ecosystem profile for the Caribbean region and that the funding that will be available for the region could be complementary to CARI'MAM. An effort is already underway in the Indian Ocean region for CEPF to provide complimentary funding to BEST RUP to support projects that include activities in 3rd countries.

6. First Assessment of EU Overseas' Marine Conservation Efforts

Carole Martinez presented the report "[European Union Overseas Coastal and Marine Protected Areas](#)" prepared by IUCN and funded by the French Development Agency. This is the first report covering all EU Overseas, only Macaronesia was included in a previous report prepared by the EEA entitled Marine Protected Areas in Europe's Seas. The report shows that the EU Overseas are leading the way in terms of the percentage of their marine area protected, however there are currently only 3 operating ecological networks. In addition there is a need to properly integrate climate change in the management and in the design of MPAs.

7. International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and 2018 International Year of the Reef (IYOR),

Pascal COLIN and Jean VERMOT presented an overview of ICRI - an informal partnership to preserve and manage coral reefs and their associated ecosystems. The ICRI Plan of Action has 5 themes; a joint initiative of ICRI and UN Environment provides grants of up to 60,000 USD for projects that contribute to the implementation of the Plan of Action. More than 200 concept notes were received in response to the call for proposals. 5 projects will be funded (incl. 1 in Caribbean region and 1 in New Caledonia) with funding for a further project possible.

ICRI has declared 2018 the 3rd international year of the reef. Further information can be found on the ICRI [website](#).

Discussion

There was a question regarding the reef in French Guyana that has recently been discovered and whether French Guyana will be integrated into the French Initiative for Coral Reefs (IFRECOR). It was informed that at the current time IFRECOR follows the ICRI in requiring a link to coral reefs (the reef in French Guyana comprises sponges), however, there is a debate to be had.

Participants were informed that for the French territories there will be a consultation at the national level to support national efforts. Organisations at the local level are encouraged to develop actions adapted to their own situation that will contribute towards the IYOR. Information on the initiatives contributed will be collated by a consultant working for ICRI and a report will be produced.

The next OCT Forum will focus on oceans so this could provide an opportunity to promote this initiative.

8. Date for the Next Roundtable

Spring 2018 (March/April) was proposed as an indicative date for the next Roundtable meeting. Participants were encouraged to provide contributions and make suggestions for presentations for the next meeting.

9. Final remarks

Carole Martinez gave the closing remarks and thanked all of the participants for attending.

Annex 1: Agenda

10th EU Overseas Roundtable

29 November 2017 - 14:00 - 17:30

EC DG ENV – Avenue de Beaulieu 5, 1160 Auderghem/ Bruxelles, Belgium

	Agenda Items	Speakers	Objective / Outcome
<i>13h30 – 14h00</i>			
<i>Registration of participants – Coffee</i>			
14h00 – 14h10	Welcome & presentation of the agenda	Carole MARTINEZ - IUCN	
14h10 – 14h45	Monitoring of the Message from Guadeloupe Open discussion --- 3 rd EU Overseas Biodiversity and Climate change Conference Open discussion	Yves RENARD Carole MARTINEZ – IUCN	Results of the first attempt to monitor the implementation of the Message from Guadeloupe Issues - Next steps --- EU Agenda opportunities? Hosting Country?
14h45 – 15h15	Vulnerability studies in the EU OTs: Anguilla Case Study Open discussion	Elena PALACIOS – Wolfs Cie Jamie WILLIAMS - Environment Systems	Presentation of outcomes of the Vulnerability analysis
15h15 – 15h 45	CARI'MAM presentation Open discussion	Phénia MARRAS-AIT RAZOUK - French Biodiversity Agency	Presentation of regional cooperation on marine mammals
<i>Coffee break</i>			
16h15 – 16h45	First assessment of EU Overseas' Marine conservation efforts Open discussion	Carole Martinez – IUCN Sylvie Rockel - IUCN	Presentation of the report

	Agenda Items	Speakers	Objective / Outcome
16h45 – 17h15	International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and 2018 International Year of the Reef (IYOR), towards sustainably preserved and managed coral reefs Open discussion	Pascal COLIN - MOM Jean VERMOT -MTES	Presentation of ICRI general Assembly and 2018 International year
17h15 – 17h30	MAES Pilot project Inventories in EU Overseas Open discussion	Karin ZAUNBERGER – DG ENV	Presentation of the pilot project
17h30	<i>End of Meeting & Networking</i>		

Annex 2: Participants of the 10th meeting of the Roundtable

29th of November 2017, 14:00–17:30h;

EC DG ENV – Avenue de Beaulieu 5, 1160 Auderghem/ Bruxelles, Belgium

#	Name	Organization
1	Karin ZAUNBERGER	EC DG ENV
2	Carole MARTINEZ	IUCN
3	Sylvie ROCKEL	IUCN
4	Daniel MITCHELL	IUCN
5	Valia QUERAN	IUCN
6	Elena PALACIOS	Wolfs Company
7	Jamie WILLIAMS	Environment Systems
8	Milan Jezic VON GESSENECK	OCTA
9	Alice COLOMBO	Bureau de représentation des Régions ultra périphériques françaises auprès de l'UE
10	José AZEVEDO	FRCT (Azores)
11	Emanuel MENDONÇA	FRCT (Azores)
12	Anne CAILLAUD	UICN France
13	Elena GORCHAKOVA	UICN France
14	Thomas SBERNA	Conservation International Europe
15	Phénia MARRAS-AIT RAZOUK	Agence française pour la biodiversité (AFB)
16	Claire-Sophie AZAM	TAAF - Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises
17	Pascal COLIN	Ministère français des Outre-mer (MOM)
18	Jean VERMOT	Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire
19	Lisa BENEDETTI	Polar Foundation
20	Frédéric BLANCHARD	Collectivité Territoriale de Guyane
21	Yves RENARD	Greenpark Consultants
22	Laurent KELLE	WWF France
23	Maurice YUNE	Délégation de la Polynésie Française à Paris
24	Caroline TANG	Délégation de la Polynésie Française à Paris
25	Sandrine ILALIO-UGATAI	Délégation de la Polynésie Française à Paris
26	Cristina DOMINGUEZ BEAUTELL	Delegación del Gobierno de Canarias en Bruselas
27	Françoise NEGOUAI	Direction de l'environnement et de l'énergie Collectivité territoriale de Martinique
28	Cyrielle CUIRASSIER	Conseil Régional de Guadeloupe auprès de l'UE au Bureau de représentation des Régions Ultra-Périphériques
29	Jessica DEMBLON	EBCD
30	Pierre CARRET	CEPF
31	Frederico CARDIGOS	Gabinete dos Açores em Bruxelas
32	Adrachi VELOU	Conseil Départemental de Mayotte

33	Marta SILVA	Political Adviser for Azorean Affairs, Agriculture and Rural Development
34	Sofie VANDEWOESTIJNE	EC DG RTD
35	Ina M. SIEBER	Leibniz University / ESMERALDA
36	Adnan ZEIN	Institutions & Stratégies