



Europe Overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change

Report of the 9th meeting

9th February 2017, IUCN European Regional offices, Brussels



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Abbreviations

AAMP	Agence des aires marines protégées (<i>French Marine Protected Areas Agency</i>)
AfD	Agence Française pour le Développement (<i>French Development Agency</i>)
BEST	Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories
BVI	British Virgin Islands
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPF	Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund
CI	Conservation International
CLME+	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
COP21	21 st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
DG	Directorate General
DG DEVCO	European Commission DG for Development Cooperation – EuropeAid
DG ENV	European Commission DG for Environment
DG REGIO	European Commission DG for Regional Policy
EBCD	European Bureau for Conservation and Development
EBSA	Ecologically and Biologically Significant marine Areas
EC	European Commission
EP	European Parliament
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GLISPA	Global Island Partnership
IUCN	International Union for Conservation
MPA	Marine protected area
MEEM	Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Énergie et de la Mer (<i>French Ministry of Environment, Energy and the Sea</i>)

MEP	Member of the European Parliament
MOM	Ministère des Outre-mers (<i>French Ministry of Overseas</i>)
MS	Member State(s)
MSP	Marine spatial planning
NGO	Non-government organization
OCT	EU Overseas Country and Territory
OCTA	Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union
OR	EU Outermost Region
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SC	Steering Committee
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
TAAF	Terres australes et antarctiques françaises (<i>Territory of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands</i>)
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TORs	Terms of Reference
UK	United Kingdom
UKOT	United Kingdom Overseas Territory
UKOTCF	United Kingdom Overseas Territory Conservation Forum
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services

Introduction

The 9th meeting of the Europe Overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change (hereafter Roundtable) took place on the 9th of February 2017 at the premises of the IUCN European Regional Office in Brussels and was attended by 33 participants. The agenda of the meeting is provided in [Annex 1](#) and the list of participating organisations in [Annex 2](#). The full presentation and other meeting documents of this Roundtable are available for download at the [Europe Overseas Roundtable](#) website.

Ms Carole Martinez, IUCN's Programme Coordinator for Regional Seas, EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories and Coordinator of BEST III and BEST 2.0, welcomed the participants. She reminded that 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). She also recalled that 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.

1. Update on BEST 2.0

The first part of the meeting started with updates from the BEST 2.0 programme (see [presentation](#)), including first results of projects funded through the 2015 and 2016 round of call for proposals and the subsequent funding decisions. The [presentation](#) was given by Carole Martinez (BEST 2.0 programme coordinator, IUCN), Daniel Mitchell (BEST 2.0 project officer, IUCN) and attending representatives from the BEST 2.0 regional hubs based in the 5 regions, in which the 25 OCTs are located. It was announced that the last BEST 2.0 call for project proposals is planned for late March 2017. This call will use the remaining €1.3million from the B4Life fund to provide swift small grants (up to €50,000, max. 12 months) and small grants (€50,000-100,000, max. 18 months) on projects in the 5 regions with OCTs, finishing no later

than early 2019 (for monitoring and capitalization reasons). The organization of envelopes per region will be kept for the final call.

Discussions

Participants asked about a project reserve list in case of difficulties with projects that had been chosen for funding. Carole Martinez replied that there is a *de facto* reserve list, bearing in mind that the EC DG DEVCO is making the final decision whether a new project is funded or not on the basis of the assessment of the remaining projects. Patrick Debels, regional coordinator of the [CLME+ project](#), commented on the synergies and difference between BEST 2.0 and CLME+ and the potential to combine the two approaches: CLME+ being more top-down and policy oriented and BEST 2.0 having a bottom-up approach. A combined approach would make small grant (SG) projects more compatible to higher level policy.

A suggestion was made to provide an overview of the BEST funded projects according to themes and regions - their duration, sector or themes e.g. fisheries, habitat restoration. This would allow for a better exchange of knowledge and the building on experience between stakeholders of different regions. In addition, material based on themes could provide a linkage between EU and global environmental and sustainable development policies.

The discussion moved on to the upcoming meetings in Aruba in February 2017, including the 15th **EU-OCT Forum**. The meetings are part of the Islands of Opportunities Week, hosted by Aruba between the 20th and 24th of February 2017. The [agenda](#) includes:

20 Feb 2017: BEST technical workshop (full day)

21/22 Feb: Meetings on EDF implementation progress

23 Feb: OCTA Ministerial Conference with a dedicated time-slot to present the BEST Initiative

24 Feb: EU-OCT Forum, open to representatives of OCTs and ORs

More information on planned activities in Aruba was provided by OCTA and Chloé Calvignac. Karin Zaunberger acknowledged the opportunity for exchange between OCT, OR leaders and the EC thanks to OCTA. Discussion revolved around the possibility that OCTA could produce a collective political statement in support of the Message from Guadeloupe and BEST, however OCTA representatives had no definitive answer at this stage.

The representative from the Canary Islands noted that the results from the Macaronesian EP are a good opportunity to identify conservation and funding gaps, in particular as Macaronesia is the only region benefitting from Natura2000. The delegates from this region were encouraged to

communicate their needs and eventually to provide a political statement from representatives of their government, increasing their involvement in BEST as the three Macaronesian autonomous regions being the only EU Overseas entities currently not benefitting from any project funding through BEST 2.0 or the new BEST RUP project. It was mentioned that MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos (Portuguese, Azores) and MEP Younous Omarjee (French, La Réunion) submitted another pilot project on Mapping and Assessing Ecosystem Services (MAES) in ORs and OCTs with a total budget of 1 million €.

It was gratefully noted that BEST was given the possibility to be part of the 'Island of Opportunities Week' in Aruba and Carole Martinez saluted again the very instrumental and fruitful collaboration with the Chair of OCTA.

2. Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme (CLME+ SAP)

Patrick Debels, regional coordinator of the [CLME+ project](#), presented the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP), a 10-year programme (2015-2025) elaborating a policy document with priorities for action based on identified key environmental problems, which shall be endorsed at the highest level of relevant government sectors. He emphasized that – given their similarities - potential synergies between the BEST ecosystem profiles (EPs)/regional investment strategy (RIS) and the CLME+ SAP ought to be sought, e.g. results of the EP/RIS priorities should be integrated in the SAP.

As of September 2016, 34 Ministers from 25 countries endorsed the CLME+ SAP, including Montserrat. The programme expresses a fervent wish to work together towards greater effective action in the area, i.e. to 'put pieces of the puzzle together' to make a greater difference. Here, knowledge sharing and networking (with BEST and Caribbean OCTs and ORs) is very important and support from the EU for the SAP implementation. Mr. Debels expressed a wish to formally engage with potential partners present at the Roundtable (including BEST).

Discussions

It was clarified while initial funding for CLME+ came from the GEF, the SAP as a deliverable is no longer under the GEF programme, but belongs to the regions and aims to bring together all the players including the private sector, NGOs, the donor community, individual countries, or a collection of states, GEF and development banks.

Mr Debels affirmed that as UNEP will coordinate the regional action plans on habitat they would of course make efforts to take progress on the identification of EBSAs (ecologically and biologically significant marine areas) – work undertaken by the CBD - into account.

On the question whether projects on the ground have already been launched, Mr. Debels explained that CLME+ tries not to overlap with existing well-established funding schemes (e.g. for biodiversity projects). In 2016, a few fisheries-related projects started. Other project themes include preservation of ecosystem services, e.g. mangroves that act as nurseries, flood prevention and filter. In general the funds are divided between sub-projects, managed by partner organisations with a small component given to small grants (2-3 projects). Since a small grant facility exists already, funds went to establishing a small grant coordination mechanism,) which will bring the regional stakeholders to identify the current needs. Additionally there are also several GEF and non-GEF funded programmes working in accordance with the SAP.

There was an interest in knowing the links to other initiatives, such as the Caribbean Challenge, BEST, CI/CEPF, given the large interest around setting up a series of trust funds. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was at the basis of the Caribbean challenge and has its own governance mechanism. CLME+ participates in their meetings and is awaiting the establishment of the partnership to formally bring this topic on board. One of the main challenges is relating to large NGO's working in the Caribbean where CLME+ (due to its good working relationship with the regional governments) is acting as a go-between to encourage greater efficiency and cooperation between the NGOs and the governments. This is being done informally so far by defining mutually agreed TORs. Carole Martinez emphasized that there is a need to create bridges in the region firstly via CEPF targeting the civil society in the SIDS (small island developing states). Hopefully this could be followed by the BEST initiative (once/if it gets more funds) to align the funding efforts. She also noted that there are large national trust funds for the Caribbean challenge but so far more information is awaited regarding how the funds will be distributed. It was stressed as well by CLME+ that NGOs coming to the Caribbean region with plans to start projects are in a delicate situation when working with the local governments (governments didn't have the best of experiences working with NGOs in the past) and this is where CLME+ can contribute its regional understanding and benefit from the trust Governments have in its experience.

Carole Martinez asked how CLME is following up with marine spatial planning (MSP), initiated by SPAW-RAC/UNEP since it's now a key part of management between sectors including modelling for climate change. Several institutes and NGOs like the Waitt Institute, TNC, UNEP

and UNESCO have plans to carry out MSP work in the region. GEF made a proposal to the World Bank to help 5 countries with MSP in the region. CLME+ plans to use its resources to organise a workshop, which would bring together people with MSP plans, so that they help each other and additional regional players effectively to increase capacity overall.

To the question whether there were any similar initiatives in other LMEs that will be launched this year Mr. Debels replied that there are a few sister initiatives involved with fewer political entities, which allows them to take a more action-focused approach.

3. Update on BEST III

BEST III updates (see presentation [here](#)) were presented by Carole Martinez (BEST III project coordinator), Sylvie Rockel (BEST III project officer) and representatives of the BEST III consortium attending the Roundtable. This last part of the BEST preparatory actions has delivered most of its expected results during the past 3 years and 2016 marked another milestone with the release of the [BEST ecosystem profiles](#) (EPs), a high-level event at the [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#) in Hawaii and another event on the marine importance of EU Overseas and marine BEST projects, as well as the recognition of BEST as first [GLISPA interregional challenge at the CBD COP](#). With the project finishing end of 2017, remaining tasks include the finalization of the Regional Investment Strategies, (RIS) based on the EPs as well as the dissemination of results, including at a final BEST conference that will be organized in Brussels in autumn 2017.

Discussions

Keeping the ultimate objective of establishing a sustainable partnership with long-term funding in mind, the question was asked whether there is a possibility/strategy to sustain BEST through the involvement of different EC DGs, e.g. DG ENV, DG DEVCO, DG REGIO, DG RTD. Governments and institutions should realise by now that BEST works and can have a return on investment. It was underlined that the events to be organized in Aruba will be an important milestone for the necessary political dialogue and will give the opportunity to showcase BEST's achievements so far and its international recognition, which in turn should help to encourage further investment. A point was made by the EC representative that it will be important to find supporters and funding from non-EU sources (e.g. Member States should potentially invest in this initiative).

4. BlueO₂ – Investing in Blue Carbon

Zairah Khan, the co-founder of the non-profit BlueO₂, presented BlueO₂'s work on developing a market platform for blue carbon, stored in wetlands and coastal ecosystems (mangroves, seagrasses and coral reefs). She also presented a pilot site in Aruba, the [RAMSAR site Spanish Lagoon](#), connecting to the local initiative for a Marine Park, one of the [BEST 2.0 funded projects](#) (see the presentation [here](#)).

5. Update on monitoring the implementation of the Message from Guadeloupe

This session was dedicated to updating the delegates on the voluntary work done by members of the Roundtable regarding the monitoring the implementation of the [Message from Guadeloupe](#). Discussions were opened with a reminder that the Message was endorsed not only by the OCTs and ORs but also by Member States and NGOs. Since then, members of the EU Overseas Roundtable who expressed interest have worked on a framework proposal for such a monitoring system, including the objectives, composition and tasks of a monitoring group and methodology. The resulting document – a non-paper on a monitoring system for the implementation of the Message from Guadeloupe – can be found in [Annex 3](#). A tentative survey, elaborated by consultant Yves Renard, to assess progress on the 5 strategic orientations of the Message, will be circulated to EU Overseas stakeholders via OCTA and the ORs Presidents Conference further to the Aruba meetings end of February 2017 (Islands Week of Opportunities) and the OR Forum that will take place in Brussels on the 30th and 31st of March 2017. This survey would serve as a tool to measure the impact and results of the Message from Guadeloupe. It was added that this useful exercise will seek for a list of all relevant projects in ORs and OCTs since the Message was adopted in 2014. Patrick Debels mentioned that the University of the West Indies (who will be delivering an inventory of PPIs (programmes, projects and Initiatives) relevant to CLME+) might be interested in integrating aspects of the Message. He also underlined the need to seek synergies with other (trans-boundary) assessments or inventories and use existing tools (e.g. IBAs database, CANARI, Universities). Pascal Colin, representative of the MOM added that the French government is regularly feeding a table regarding the Message from Guadeloupe.

Karin Zaunberger suggested that DG REGIO and the ORs could add a dedicated slot in the agenda of the *Comité de suivi* group work on this topic and DG DEVCO and OCTs could

valuably contribute as well. It does not need to be on the agendas all the time but just on a regular basis to open up communication further. These discussions could start by addressing/updating the status of the Message implementation and follow this by any topic of relevance.

Tara Pelembe (SAERI) suggested mapping against other assessments (for other targets), such as CBD reports (and Aichi Targets).

It was agreed that the focus for 2017 will be to take stock of the situation, with distribution of the survey after Aruba and ORs Forum meetings and collecting feedback over the summer before presenting the results in autumn of 2017 at the next EU Overseas Roundtable meeting.

6. Update on Sustainable Partnership works

This session was dedicated to updating the delegates on the voluntary work done by members of the Roundtable regarding the BEST Group mentioned in the [Message from Guadeloupe](#). Like for the monitoring of the Message from Guadeloupe, members of the EU Overseas Roundtable, who expressed interest, have worked on a framework proposal for such a BEST Group and a non-paper since the adoption of the Message. Discussion was thus centered on the content of the non-paper (see [Annex 4](#)): proposal for the constitution of a political group dedicated to the creation of a sustainable partnership building on the BEST Preparatory Action. This non-paper shall be seen as a starting point for discussions with decisions still to be taken by the BEST Group and its members once it will be convened.

Construction of the Group (both political and technical): A question was raised on whether 'Political Group' was the correct name since this is a decision-making group. It was advised to consider other (high-level) events, when planning meetings of the Political Group to facilitate participation. Additionally, it was recommended to not restrict the number of MEPs to two (one from OR and one from OCT) in the political group, since this could be a source of contention as there are three MEPs from the ORs. Instead, it was suggested to remove all numbers in the non-paper.

When asked, Alice COLOMBO (Representative of French Guiana), Kathleen Figueiredo Laissy (EURODOM) and Juan Martinez Barrio (Canary Islands) expressed their interest to participate in the work.

Decision on change in non-paper:

Remove the upper limit for the number of representatives in the political group since it is unlikely that there will ever be too many MEP in the meeting. When some do meet they can make decisions on numbers if it's important.

Future of the Group: It was noticed that a potential complication to the forward momentum of this Group is the missing leadership or a mandate to set up the Political Group. The EC representative (Karin Zaunberger) recalled that the EC is already committed to convening such a group and has been waiting for signals from OCT/OR authorities that they support the Group's formation in order to bring the issue up with the appropriate body through the EC. The EC representative (Karin Zaunberger) indicated that 2017 is a critical year for the BEST Preparatory Action as it will be finished in December with the end of the BEST III contract. There was general agreement that the BEST initiative should survive the end of BEST III and to use the existing momentum, else there is a risk that the considerable progress and action made so far would be lost. Thus, political statements expressing support to sustain BEST this year would be especially important for the future of BEST, such as from the 15th OCT Ministerial Conference, the 15th OCT-EU Forum in Aruba (for which a political declaration is currently drafted) as well as the ORs Forum in Brussels end of March 2017 and the ORs President Conference at the last semester 2017. The French OR representation (Alice Colombo) questioned the OR Forum in March as the right occasion for such a declaration but rather suggested to prepare this for the ORs President Conference end of 2017.

It was asked how and if so, when high-level representatives will be briefed to allow such an important step. Karin Zaunberger replied that more (background) information will be sent to OCT and OR leaders further to the invitation to the Aruba events and that Humberto Delgado Rosa will want to discuss with the leaders to hear whether pursuing BEST is desired and such a group is wanted by the OCTs/ORs.

7. BEST RUP project

Participants were informed that the new project targeting the French ORs (BEST RUP) started 15th of January 2017. BEST RUP implements the pilot project on "Inventories of Species and Habitats in the French Outermost Regions submitted by Younous Omarjee (MEP) and adopted by the EP in 2015. One of the activities will be an open call for proposals for French Outermost Regions following the methodology of the BEST 2.0 Programme. Hence a direct award was

granted to the IUCN led consortium. The date for the call for proposals for swift small grants will be announced, launch after a preparation phase - tentatively in May 2017. The total project budget is € 1 million. The project encompasses 3 components: (1) existing list of species and habitats in the French ORs, (2) identification of Key Biodiversity Areas and Ecosystem Services in French Guyana in the frame of BEST III in order to test the feasibility of [MAES](#) in EU Overseas, and (3) a call for project proposals. Due to DG ENV administrative regulations restricting sub-contracting to €60,000, only swift small grants will be awarded.

Participants are encouraged to share this news in their networks.

8. Next steps

Change to Round table format: It was suggested and agreed to slightly change the format of the EU Overseas Roundtable meetings, by having additional thematic meetings. These additions would replace some of the customary meetings with a dedicated meeting to a particular theme e.g. fisheries, energy etc. where discussions and presentation revolved around one theme. The idea is that this would result in more knowledge dissemination and opening innovative avenues of work and thought process.

Date for next roundtable: Input is needed from the OR and OCT delegates for appropriate dates and venue suggestions for the next meeting around October-November 2017, potentially back-to-back with BEST Conference in Brussels.

Regarding the BEST conference one possibility was suggested to host the meeting in the EC's Charlemagne building to overcome difficulties of organising longer events at the European Parliament.

9. Final remarks

Carole Martinez gave the closing remarks with a request again for input on the timing for the next Roundtable meeting. In particular, she expressed the wish, on behalf on many attendees, for some feedback and debriefing on the results of the upcoming meetings in Aruba, preferably in March 2017.

Annex 1: Agenda

9th EU Overseas Roundtable February 2017

9 February 2017 – 10:00 - 17:00 – [IUCN European Regional Office](#) – Boulevard Louis Schmidt 64, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker	Objective / Outcome
10h00 – 10h30	<i>Registration of participants – Coffee</i>		
10h30 – 10h45	Welcome Presentation of the agenda	Carole MARTINEZ - IUCN	
10h45 – 11h30	Results of second round of calls of the BEST 2.0 Programme Open discussion	Carole MARTINEZ – Daniel Mitchell - IUCN	Results of the second round of calls for project proposals in the EU Overseas Countries and Territories – presentation of selected projects and announcement of current funding opportunities
11h30 – 12h00	CLME+ Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem project	Patrick DEBELS - UNOPS	Presentation of 10-year CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and associated initiatives
12h00 – 13h30	<i>Lunch break Networking</i>		
13h30 – 14h15	Update on BEST III Project Open discussion	Karin ZAUNBERGER – DG ENV Carole MARTINEZ - Sylvie Rockel IUCN	Presentation of the BEST III Ecosystem profiles and regional Investment strategies works
14h15 – 15h00	BEST Conference EU Overseas Roundtable informal working group activities regarding the BEST Group Open discussion	DG ENV Carole MARTINEZ - IUCN	Presentation of the non-paper prepared by the EU Overseas Roundtable informal group
15h00 – 15h30	Monitoring of the Message from	Yves Renard	Follow-up of the Message from Guadeloupe

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker	Objective / Outcome
	Guadeloupe EU Overseas Roundtable informal working group activities regarding the Monitoring of the Message from Guadeloupe Open discussion	Carole MARTINEZ – IUCN	English and French versions of the Message are available online as well as useful documents Presentation of the informal working group activities regarding Monitoring the Implementation of the Message from Guadeloupe Message from Guadeloupe Preliminary assessment on-line Evaluation préliminaire du Message de la Guadeloupe en ligne
15h30 – 16h00	Coffee break		
16h00 - 16h30	Pilot project Inventories in French ORs Open discussion	European Parliament Karin ZAUNBERGER – DG ENV	Presentation of the work packages and activities
16h30 – 16h45	BlueO ₂	Zairah Khan – BlueO ₂ Co- founder	
16h45 – 17h00	Next steps - Upcoming events: EU-OCT Forum ORs Forum Planned activities in 2017 AOB	- DG ENV	
17h00	End of Meeting & Networking		

Annex 2: Participants of the 9th meeting of the Roundtable

9th of February 2017, 10:00–17:00h;

IUCN European Regional Office, Boulevard Louis Schmidt 64, 1040 Brussels

#	Name	Organization
1	Karin ZAUNBERGER	EC DG ENV
2	Carole MARTINEZ	IUCN
3	Sylvie ROCKEL	IUCN
4	Daniel MITCHELL	IUCN
5	Raphaelle FLINT	IUCN
6	Christèle ALLAUD	Representative Martinique
7	Patrick DEBELS	CLME+ (UNDP/GEF)
8	Phénia MARRAS-AIT RAZOUK	AAMP - Agence des aires marines protégées
9	Susana MESTRE	DG REGIO
10	Yves RENARD	Greenpark Consultants
11	Kathleen LAISSY	EURODOM
12	Anne CAILLAUD	IUCN France
13	Tara PELLEMBE	SAERI – South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute
14	Anne-Gaëlle VERDIER	TAAF - Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises
15	Claire-Sophie AZAM	TAAF - Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises
16	Chloé CALVIGNAC	OCTA / New Caledonia representative
17	Tracy KNIGHT	Turks and Caicos Islands Government London Office
18	Rudya LAKE	Collectivité d'Outre-mer de Saint Martin
19	Tiago FREITAS	DG RTD
20	Uiloq Mulvad JESSEN	Government of Greenland Representation
21	Kuluk LYBERTH	Government of Greenland Representation
22	Bruno PACHECO	FRCT (Fundo Regional para a Ciência e Tecnologia)
23	Emanuel MENDONCA	FRCT (Fundo Regional para a Ciência e Tecnologia)
24	Pascal COLIN	Ministère français des Outre-mer (MOM)
25	Nicolas FERELLEC	OCTA Secretariat
26	Perrine OROSCO - LE FOURNIS	European Parliament, Chef du bureau de Maurice PONGA
27	Ricardo Serrão SANTOS	European Parliament
28	Alice COLOMBO	Bureau de représentation des Régions ultra périphériques françaises auprès de l'UE
29	Sandrine ILALIO-UGATAI	Délégation de la Polynésie Française à Paris
30	Catherine WENSINK	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
31	Zairah KHAN	BlueO ₂
32	Juan MARTINEZ BARRIO	Gobierno de Canarias, Servicio de Biodiversidad
33	Guss SCHUTJES	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Directorate of Nature and Biodiversity, Netherlands

Annex 3: Non Paper on a monitoring system for the implementation of the Message of Guadeloupe

(as circulated during meeting, without suggestions made during the 9th Roundtable meeting)

NON PAPER

On a monitoring system for the implementation of the Message of Guadeloupe

Based on the discussions during informal meetings in Brussels in March 2015 (ad hoc after the 7th 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. Taking a step further, the participants at the “*International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change*” 2014 in Guadeloupe agreed on the necessity to put in place a monitoring system for the implementation of the [Message from Guadeloupe](#).

Proposal of action

Achieving this ambitious goal requires to address different issues such as format, the methodology to be used, the agenda and the governance arrangements. Some participants of the European Overseas Roundtable agreed to constitute an **informal group to address these questions and to prepare the set up and the work of the formal group**.

The first exchanges between the members on developing such a monitoring system of this informal group were made via email, based on an earlier draft of this non-paper. The topics discussed were:

- **Objectives** of the procedure to monitor the implementation of the Message of Guadeloupe.
- **Ways to proceed** to elaborate this procedure.
- **Practical modalities** of work.
- **Decision-making** structure.

Objectives of monitoring system

The objectives of this monitoring system/procedure are to:

- Provide a living system to document the progress in the implementation of the recommendations listed in the [Message from Guadeloupe](#) that can allow an extensive assessment of all activities undertaken by the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT), the Outermost Regions (OR), the Member States (MS) and the European Commission (EC) in terms of programmes and funding in the EU Overseas
- Analyse and identify existing initiatives
- Foster dialogue between and receive feedback from all EU Overseas stakeholders in order to guide future activities and political decisions
- Conduct a mid-term **review** of the achievements before the next EU programming phase and the setup of the BEST sustainable partnership.

Composition and tasks of the monitoring group

This formal monitoring group should bring together representatives of MSs, ORs and OCTs (on an individual basis and/or through the Conference of the ORs' Presidents and through OCTA), the EC, European Parliament, private sector, development agencies and civil society with the mandate to:

- Monitor the implementation of the recommendations listed in the [Message from Guadeloupe](#).
- Report on the assessment progress at the EU Overseas Roundtable as well as at a mid-term review event and the future EU-OCT Forum and Outermost Regions Conference.

The EU Overseas Roundtable will have a supporting role for the monitoring of the Message from Guadeloupe in sharing and circulating information about progresses.

Ways to proceed / Methodology / Division of work

It is suggested to prepare a **monitoring matrix** as a first overview of all activities undertaken by the OCTs, the ORs, the MS and the EC in terms of programmes and funding, which could then provide a living documentation system for monitoring progress and identifying gaps in order to redefine priorities, define new actions, identify new support options, etc.

Regular institutional conferences and meetings should be used to find synergies with existing monitoring and assessment activities, take feedback from all the different stakeholders and thus allow for a true dialogue and for a presentation of the monitoring results.

Secretariat:

IUCN

Next steps:

During 2017, work will focus on a mid-term assessment of the implementation of the Message from Guadeloupe, with:

- preparation of a template to identify and document actions initiated and measures and policies introduced since the adoption of the Message from Guadeloupe (March);
- dissemination of the template, in the form of an online questionnaire, through the OCTA and the Conference of the Presidents of the Outermost Regions, as well as through relevant networks (early April, with deadline for responses mid-June);
- compilation of the responses received and dissemination to all actors concerned (August);
- interviews with key informants and preliminary analysis (September);
- dissemination of the preliminary analysis, including presentation to and discussion at the Roundtable (October or November).

In 2018 and 2019, meetings of the Roundtable will be used for in-depth assessments of progress made towards the five strategic priorities and the crosscutting actions of the Message (one theme per meeting).

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 9th 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 7th 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 Guadeloupe¹ 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

¹ 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 case¹ which was developed by the BEST Facilitation project (Business case²) 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.

² 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/