



Europe Overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change

Report of the 7th meeting

31 March 2015, European Commission, Brussels



Contents

ABBREVIATIONS	3
INTRODUCTION	4
1. UPDATES FROM REUNION ISLAND DECLARATION IN JUNE 2014	4
2. FOLLOW-UP ON GUADELOUPE CONFERENCE	5
2.1 DECLARATION OF THE 20 TH ORS' PRESIDENT CONFERENCE	6
2.2 CONCLUSIONS FROM THE 13 TH OCT – EU FORUM	7
3. EU BIODIVERSITY REVIEWS	9
3.1 THE STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT (SOER) 2015	9
3.2 MID-TERM REVIEW OF EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY REVIEW	10
4. BEST UPDATE	11
4.1 UPDATE ON BEST III	11
4.2 THE NEW PROGRAMME BEST 2.0	13
5. TEEB REPORT ON ECOSYSTEM SERVICES VALUATION RESEARCH	15
6. FINAL REMARKS AND CONCLUSIONS	17
APPENDIX 1: AGENDA OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE ROUNDTABLE, 31 MARCH 2015	18
APPENDIX 2: PARTICIPANT ORGANIZATIONS OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE ROUNDTABLE, 31 MARCH 2015	19

Abbreviations

AAMP	French Marine Protected Areas Agency (<i>Agence des aires marines protégées</i>)
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
AFD	French Development Agency (<i>Agence Française de Développement</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
COP21	21 st session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the UK
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
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Environment Agency
EP	European Parliament
EP Intergroup	European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
EU	European Union
GLISPA	Global Island Partnership
GPGC	Global Public Goods and Challenges
IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
IUCN	International Union for Conservation
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
MPA	Marine protected area
MEDDE	Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (<i>Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement durable et de l'Énergie</i>)
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
MFF	Multiannual financial framework
MS	Member States
MTR	Mid-term review (of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020)
NCFF	Natural Capital Financing Facility
NRG4SD	Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development
OCT	EU Overseas Country and Territory
OCTA	Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union Association
OR	EU Outermost Region
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SC	Steering Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
TAAF	Territory of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (<i>Terres australes et antarctiques françaises</i>)
TEEB	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TORs	Terms of Reference
UK	United Kingdom
UKOT	Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WIOCC	Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge

Introduction

The 7th meeting of the Europe Overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change (hereafter Roundtable) took place on the 31st of March 2015 at the premises of the European Commission in Brussels and was attended by 42 participants. The agenda of the meeting is provided in [Appendix 1](#) and the list of participating organisations in [Appendix 2](#).

The meeting was opened by Ms Carole Martinez, IUCN's Programme Coordinator for EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories and Coordinator of BEST III and BEST 2.0, who welcomed participants and introduced the agenda, pointing to connections and potential synergies between the past Conferences on islands, biodiversity and climate change in 2014 and the follow-up through the Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) meetings early in 2015 and showing how the two recently released European environment status reports can be used to better represent EU Overseas biodiversity in the next environment conference in Riga (May 2015). The work on the BEST initiative, particularly by the BEST III consortium but also by BEST 2.0 in the future, will definitely contribute to the necessary increased awareness of the importance of the EU Overseas biodiversity in order to reach the European biodiversity targets. She also explained how assessment reports on ecosystem services and new monitoring instruments can provide useful tools for policies but also for investments.

1. Updates from Reunion Island Declaration in June 2014

The representative of the Region of Réunion gave a presentation on the [Declaration](#), the outcome of the International Conference "[Islands and Climate Change: Opportunities, Resilience, Adaptation](#)" that took place on Reunion Island from 24 to 26 June 2014, hosted by the French overseas Regional Council of La Réunion in collaboration with four international organizations, the Climate Group, IUCN, the R20 coalition of regions and the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (NRG4SD), and supported by the Islands of the Outermost Regions (ORs) and the CPMR¹ (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe). It was pointed out that this declaration ("[Communiqué de La Réunion](#)"), signed by eight islands (Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Guadeloupe, Reunion Island), was drafted to present proposals on how to tackle climate change during the 3rd UN Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in September 2014 in Samoa.

The declaration highlights that islands are in the front line of climate change impacts, metaphorically called the "canaries in the coalmine". The two main objectives were summarized as assuring the future of the islands' populations by working on issues of food security, sanitation, water resources and poverty reduction as well as to maintaining economic growth by developing green, blue and circular economy and following rational management of natural resources in order to protect the environment. The declaration therefore proposes to three core tasks in order to reach these objectives: (1) Setting up a regional strategy by geographical area, appropriated by the citizens to enhance solidarity, with a regional strategy on climate change adaptation currently being elaborated with the Indian Ocean Commission; (2) increasing cooperation (North-South and South-South) by developing tools for a sustainable planning of the territories such as the Indian Ocean system to survey the environment by satellites (called SEAS OI) and by developing platforms for skill and technology exchange, such as the Indian Ocean energy platform (HUB ENERGY R20 OI) to efficiently make use of climate and meteorological data; and (3) Developing international sustainable initiatives and partnerships, as already established with the SIDS Lighthouse initiative [IRENA](#) (International Renewable Energy Agency), with IUCN, with [GLISPA](#) (Global Island Partnership) and others. The island declaration will be presented at the COP21 in Paris in December 2015 in collaboration with NRG4SD. This presentation will summarize the results of [World Wide Views Climate-Energy](#) for the island territories, the largest global citizen consultation on climate and energy that takes place on 6 June 2015, as well as the contribution of young people in Reunion Island to a sustainable future of the planet.

Carole Martinez took the opportunity to acknowledge this and other planned island initiatives, which are supported by the French Government through a big event at the COP21 in order to foster the partnership and synergies between the EU Overseas and the SIDS. She encouraged discussion on partnerships and initiatives.

The representative from Martinique shared with the Roundtable that the President of Martinique will hold a discussion between the Caribbean states, territories and ORs in order to draft a joint Caribbean message for the COP21, entitled [Caribbean Climate 2015 – The Caribbean Voice](#). The president of the Council supported

¹ *Conférence des régions périphériques maritimes d'Europe (CRPM)*

the idea of preparing such a message discussion and organized a meeting. The participants were encouraged to send questions to be addressed by the group consisting of researchers and technical experts that is drafting the message to be shared in May: [L'appel de Fort de France](#).

PEW representative informed about the progress on the development of an [Ocean and Climate Platform](#) to promote the mitigation role of the oceans in climate change through awareness documents, which were elaborated with scientists. The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) started promoting the platform, which is giving the civil society a voice at the COP21.

IUCN announced two events of interest in this regard: (1) end of April 2015 together with partners around the world it will be discussed how marine protected areas (MPAs) can play a positive role in climate change mitigation and adaptation; (2) a meeting organized at UNESCO for the [World Oceans Day \(WOD\)](#) on June 8 to address how climate change affects the oceans, in particular ocean acidification.

Carole Martinez added that IUCN will release a report on MPA networks in the EU Overseas later in 2015, revealing that only very few MPA networks are taking climate change issues into account in their design. This document should highlight the important role of the oceans in climate change mitigation and foster the debate on climate change mitigation and adaptation between the EU Overseas and neighbouring countries with large marine areas.

Carole Martinez invited the representative of Mr Ponga to share information on a conference that is planned by the European Parliament (EP) Intergroup on Climate Change in autumn in the European Parliament. This high level conference on climate change and sustainable development not only in the EU Overseas will be organized together with several MEPs and chaired by Mr Ponga, chair of the EP Intergroup. Mr Ponga also plans an additional event "[Promoting Partnerships in European Overseas](#)" potentially in October 2015, focusing on EU Overseas as a follow-up of the Guadeloupe Conference in order to share reflections and initiatives concerning the upcoming COP21.

Discussion:

- OCT Task Force asked whether the regional strategy proposed in the Island Declaration in June 2014 has been developed and whether it is linked with existing European funds available for Reunion and the other participating islands. They also wanted to know whether the Southern French Territories (TAAF) were involved in such a strategy or deliberately excluded.
- >> The representative of Reunion Island informed that TAAF did not want to be associated with this declaration. Regarding the progress on the regional strategy, since June 2014 an energy platform has been set up in the Indian Ocean and a large project was financed by Europe and supported by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) that is developing an energy strategy in the Indian Ocean in order to mitigate the effects of climate change in the region. However, the signing states – despite being supportive of the declaration - have not yet given any feedback on or specific input into the Island Declaration and its implementation.
- Carole Martinez asked whether the Region of Reunion invited these states that signed the declaration to the COP21 side event to discuss their involvement and how they see the implementation of this strategy.
- >> The representative of Reunion Island assured that the invitations will be sent to all the regions that wanted to be involved in order to get the strategy approved and enriched and encouraged the Roundtable participants to share their ideas or existing strategies with the Indian Ocean region.
- Carole Martinez asked for more explanation on the connections with other initiatives in the Indian Ocean region, such as the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge ([WIOCC](#)) for presenting during the COP21.
- >> The representative of Reunion Island assured that all regional islands are working together on the strategy and are involved in the WIOCC.

2. Follow-up on Guadeloupe Conference

Carole Martinez summarized the objectives and activities (workshops) of the international [conference on biodiversity and climate change](#) that took place 21 to 25 October 2014 on Guadeloupe Island and was co-organized by the CBD Secretariat, the European Commission (EC) the French Government, Guadeloupe Regional Council, the government of the British Virgin Islands (BVI), OCTA and IUCN. This long-awaited conference tabled an assessment of the progress on the [Message from Reunion Island](#) (2008) regarding the biodiversity conservation and climate change activities in the EU Overseas since 2008, discussed the

broader issues of resilience and sustainable development, but also served as preparation for the COP21 climate change discussions.

During a workshop on blue and green economy participants discussed the status quo regarding access of EU Overseas to EU funding and the progress on BEST, while another dedicated workshop on this topic elaborated in more detail how to improve the access of European Overseas actors to these funds. During the entire conference the CBD Executive Secretary was present and addressed the political decision makers by highlighting the importance of EU Overseas for the work of the CBD Secretariat. Aiming to provide a political tool with a balanced technical input to decision makers of the ORs, OCTs, the Member States, the European Commission as well as other regional and international organizations the outcome of the conference, the [Message from Guadeloupe](#), summarizes all the workshop proposals and discussion.

The following Roundtable presentations were focused on the follow-up to the Message from Guadeloupe and the buy-in from all representatives and stakeholders of the EU Overseas (beyond the 200 conference participants) during the 20th ORs President Conference in Guadeloupe in February 2015 as well as during the 13th OCT-EU Forum at BVI, also in February 2015.

2.1 Declaration of the 20th ORs' President Conference

The invited Guadeloupe representative was unfortunately not available to share the outcomes of the 20th ORs President Conference, which took place on 5 and 6 February 2015 in Guadeloupe. The European Commission representative from DG Environment (DG ENV) took the floor, deploring that the [final declaration](#) of this ORs' President Conference did not pick up on the momentum after the Guadeloupe Conference.

The ORs President Conference focused on the big problematic of unemployment and development in the regions but did not make the connection to climate change and biodiversity. The declaration mentions the aim of establishing a "horizontal axe to tackle climate change with a linear strategy" without further elaboration what this means. However, an important point of the Conference was the emphasis of transitioning to renewable energies, for which both OCTs and ORs could become trendsetters and for which European funds are available.

In conclusion, the ORs' Presidency Conference held in Guadeloupe in early 2015 did not take up the high-level commitments from the Guadeloupe Conference 2014. It is hoped that future ORs Presidents Conferences will follow-up on the issues raised in the [Message from Guadeloupe](#).

Discussion:

- The representative of the Aruba government asked for an explanation for why this level of commitment from the Guadeloupe Conference 2014 was not transferred to the ORs' Presidency Conference and if that could have been a question of ownership or not realizing the urgency.
- >> DG ENV has no explanation and hopes that the engagement and commitment gains momentum again for the COP21. The Caribbean is amongst the most vulnerable regions to climate change impacts and should respond with the necessary urgency as they are linked with social issues and unemployment. The only sustainable solution to unemployment and inequality is to address them together with climate change by creating jobs through green infrastructure, ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions. These synergies were elaborated and embedded in the [Message from Guadeloupe](#) and this knowledge should be used to work on the implementation of the strategies and actions outlined there.
- >> Regarding the ownership, Carole Martinez added that organizing both conferences in and by Guadeloupe was supposed to facilitate making this connection. However, it was also their responsibility to liaise with the other OR presidents to discuss and convey the Message and include it into the agenda of the ORs' Presidency Conference. While Victorin Lurel, President of the Regional Council of Guadeloupe, mentioned the Message from Guadeloupe in his speech it was not on the agenda, which had been discussed with all ORs to ensure that the perspectives of all ORs are represented. This raised the question whether sharing the Message and preparing for this conference could have been better supported and also provided an important lesson on how to work better with the ORs in the future. For the next ORs' Presidency Conference and other important events in the near future, the corporation with the new ORs' Presidency Madeira will be much closer in order to ensure that the Message from Guadeloupe will be shared, discussed and implemented at the different levels (European, regional, national, local). With the inclusion of monitoring activities in the Message from Guadeloupe the implementation of the recommendations will be measurable and accountable, which was a missing element in the Message from Reunion Island.

- The EU representative of the Government of Curaçao pointed out that the implementation of the Message from Guadeloupe should be propelled by raising awareness. Environmental issues are not on the agenda of most Caribbean states, dealing against high rates of poverty, crime and unemployment because they are not aware of the links between climate change and local socio-economic problems.
- >> Carole Martinez agreed that incorporating and linking to the local problems is crucial for succeeding with the implementation of the Message from Guadeloupe and development has been deliberately addressed by the workshops, in particular the green and blue economy.
- The representative of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum – backing up the previous statements – shared the perception of the UK OCTs on these procedures and outcomes as a top-down approach. However, this should neither criticise nor neglect the importance of the long-term involvement and commitments by the French Government and the support by the European Commission. In future events careful planning should take an even more central role in order to prevent such a perception.
- >> Carole Martinez pointed out that the partnership with Guadeloupe and OCTA was set up to get input for the programme and share the information but conceded that the process may need to follow a more participatory approach, not only for the conference preparation and sharing the agenda and message but also for drafting a message that is to be shared and implemented by all ORs and OCTs.

2.2 Conclusions from the 13th OCT – EU Forum

Agenda of new OCTA Chair

After a brief introduction on Curaçao and its involvement with OCTA, followed by an update on OCTA and its membership, the representative of the Government of Curaçao shared the agenda of the new Chair of OCTA, which take into account the adopted [Conclusions](#) of the 13th OCT-EU Forum. It was first highlighted that the development of a new strategic plan for the period 2015 – 2020 must be in a participatory and consultative manner address key issues that are relevant to the future of OCTA and OCTs and enhance the dialogue with the EU institutions. The new agenda, entitled “Strategic Partnerships as an Instrument for Sustainable Development” is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the post-2015 UN’s development framework and aims to reduce the vulnerabilities inherent to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through international, regional, bilateral or multilateral partnerships, which can support the OCTs in developing into regional hubs and centers of excellence.

The new agenda calls for:

- Increased collaboration with the European Parliament
- Enhanced political dialogue with EU institutions as well as regional and international partners
- Increased cooperation between OCTs, the ORs and the ACP States, starting with the Caribbean region
- Increased political visibility of OCTA through participation at regional and international forums
- Increased partnership building to support regional cooperation, renewable energies and innovation for sustainable economic development
- Implementation of the Renewable Energy Roadmap and recommendations of the European Commission’s study entitled ‘Renewable energies and green policy in the Overseas Countries and Territories’
- Further implementation of the territorial strategies for innovation
- Work on biodiversity and climate change issues, incl. support for follow-up of the Message from Guadeloupe

The new OCTA Chair fully supports OCTA’s involvement in the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris in order to work towards the success of this meeting, as called for under paragraph 13 of the Conclusions of the 13th OCT-EU Forum, such as through the participation in regional consultations and preparations.

Summary of Conclusions of the 13th OCT-EU Forum

The representative of the Government of the British Virgin Islands highlighted some points from the meetings on the British Virgin Islands (BVI) between 23 and 27 February and started by thanking all partners for their participation and support, in particular the European Commission, on behalf of the Government of BVI.

One of the points discussed during the **OCTA Ministerial Conference** on 26 February was how the OCTs are going to lock their value by leveraging their relationship with the EU. Particular focus was placed on

positioning the OCTs as regional hubs and developing centres of excellence in their respective OCTs. The conference participants also addressed the sustainable use of natural resources and agreed that climate change and renewable energies are the sectors of concentration best placed to make effective use of the thematic envelope. The priorities of the OCTs Ministerial Conference were summarized in the OCTA Political Declaration, adopted in the same meeting, and cover a wide range of areas, including points on biodiversity and climate change. To address biodiversity, the OCTs shall work further on BEST, while on the point of climate change some form of participation in the UNFCCC COP21 was agreed.

During the **13th OCT-EU Forum**, organized under the auspices of EC DG DEVCO, Commissioner Mr Neven Mimica participated in two political Roundtables focused on regional cooperation and sustainable use of natural resources. For the first time there was an agreement on an outcome document in the form of joint and common [conclusions](#), of which the representative highlighted the most important to the OCTs in this meeting:

- Regional cooperation, among and between OCTs, neighbouring countries including SIDS, ACP countries and EU ORs, with which the OCTs share common challenges, should contribute to the achievement of the overriding objectives of OCTA (slightly modified from conclusion 7)
- The Partners will cooperate closely in order to identify the fields, in which OCTs envisage a role as regional hubs and centres of excellence and how this can be best supported (conclusion 8).
- The sustainable use of natural resources is of critical importance to OCTs, in light of their environmental wealth and the challenges they are confronted with. The Commission commits to supporting this sector in the context of the thematic programme and endorses the proposal of OCTs to focus on the following two sub-sectors: Climate Change (including disaster risk reduction) and Sustainable Energy, in order to ensure maximum impact of the financial assistance provided by the Union and prevent the dissipation of resources (conclusion 10).
- The selection of these two sub-sectors demonstrates the commitment of OCTs to protecting their environment and is consistent with the recommendations in the environmental profiles of the OCTs and the 2013 report on renewable energy in OCTs. Partners encourage individual members should they wish to implement the conclusions of the Guadeloupe International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change that took place on 22-25 October, 2014 and the policies of the Union in this field. The modalities of implementation will be carefully selected in subsequent months, in the course of the identification and formulation phases, to ensure adequate monitoring and measurable results (conclusion 11).

The next OCT-EU Forum is tentatively scheduled to take place in Brussels in early 2016.

Carole Martinez thanked the speakers for making the links between the Guadeloupe Message and the subsequent meetings in the same region.

Discussion on monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the Guadeloupe Message:

Carole Martinez opened the discussion on monitoring and assessment as part of the follow-up and implementation of the Guadeloupe Message, in particular looking at the modalities of how this monitoring should be implemented, e.g. defined option or more participatory approach, which could include setting up a working group with representatives of the OCTs and ORs as well as member states and EC; but also what will be monitored and with what frequency. The monitoring framework should ensure that feedback will be provided to the next conference or event in terms of implementation progress, follow-up and action points. To that end, the French Government already drafted an assessment matrix in order to evaluate how the commitments made by Madame Ségolène Royal at the closing of the Guadeloupe Conference can support the implementation of the Guadeloupe Message, which could serve as a guiding matrix to assess how the activities of the member states, OCTs, ORs and the EC support the strategic actions and operational activities recommended in the Guadeloupe Message.

The representative of the IUCN French Committee summarized that during the last meeting of the French Overseas working group in February 2015 discussed how to contribute to the implementation of the Guadeloupe Message. While the exact modalities have not been decided, the group expressed their interest in contributing to the parts dedicated to BEST, climate change and nature-based solutions, which will be further discussed during the next months. The French Overseas territories and the French Committee of IUCN will also prepare their commitments for presenting at the COP21 in Paris.

Carole Martinez asked the participants for their opinion on having a working group (pre-configuration group) for preparing the monitoring methodology, which could be discussed at the next EU Overseas Roundtable together with the TORs of the monitoring group and mentioned again the assessment matrix drafted by the French Government could serve as a basis for such a methodology.

The representative of MEDDE (Ministry of sustainable development of the French Government) summarized the ongoing work on this type of assessment matrix or table, which was supposed to give an overview of the status of implementation of the commitments given by the Ministry of sustainable development of the French Government at the Guadeloupe Conference, and offered to share the document, which will be updated monthly by the French Government.

- DG ENV and 9 other participants of the Roundtable supported the idea of having such a working group for monitoring.
- The working group for monitoring will thus be formed with the right balance of OCTs, ORs, MS and EC representatives and present their results at the next Roundtable.

3. EU Biodiversity reviews

3.1 The State of Environment Report (SOER) 2015

The representative of the European Environment Agency **Frank Larsen (EEA)** presented the review report on the state and outlook of the European environment (SOER 2015), released in March 2015. The report, a comprehensive assessment of the European environment's state, trends and prospects in a global context, informs European environmental policy implementation between 2015 and 2020 and analyses the opportunities to modify existing policies in order to achieve the European Union's 2050 vision of living well within the limits of the planet. Published every 5 years, the SOER 2015 comprises a synthesis report and an assessment of global megatrends with 87 briefings structured in four categories: global megatrends, cross-country comparisons, European briefings, and regional and country-level briefings. Unfortunately, the European Overseas regions are not included due to the three previously identified priority areas (Arctic, Black Sea, and Mediterranean Sea) but it has been suggested to cover them in the next review.

The report, available [online](#), demonstrates the complexity of environmental problems. However, this presentation focused on four key messages from the report:

- **Policies** have delivered substantial benefits for the environment, economy and people's well-being; major challenges remain
- Europe faces persistent and emerging challenges linked to production and consumption **systems**, and the rapidly changing **global** context
- Achieving the 2050 vision requires **system transitions**, driven by more ambitious actions on policy, knowledge, investments and innovation, which requires more than increasing efficiency and EU overseas regions (though not part of this report) could be seen as pioneers for a transition to green energy
- Doing so presents major **opportunities** to boost Europe's economy and employment and put Europe at the frontier of science and innovation

While not part of this report, the biodiversity and ecosystem services of the EU Overseas regions were targeted in three other activities of EEA with IUCN in 2014:

- [Briefing on biodiversity in EU overseas](#), published during the Guadeloupe Conference
- Scoping of potential **indicators for EU overseas biodiversity** (indicators for continental Europe not directly applicable) by analysing existing frameworks, their adaptability, existing local and national activities to explore feasibility of developing common indicators, on which EEA in its governing regulation and facilitating function could assess the status of biodiversity in these regions
- **Assessment report on biodiversity in EU overseas** as an update to the last [report in 2008](#) and as demanded in the [Message from Guadeloupe](#), including factsheets for each OCT and OR and overall thematic analyses, to be published late 2015/early 2016.

EEA's focus on biodiversity in EU overseas is very timely as seen with the Guadeloupe Conference 2014 and its Message, in which EEA was also involved, target 6 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and its mid-term review to be published later in 2015 by the EC.

Discussion on SOER 2015:

- The representative of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum encouraged to collaborate on the update report on EU overseas biodiversity to minimize the work of the overseas territories and avoid duplication efforts of ongoing work in the UK territories, resulting from an agreement between UK

government and its overseas territories in 2001 to address the issue that EU overseas have developed environmental responsibility.

- The representative of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) added that the JNCC currently encourages international organizations to put their data on the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services ([IPBES](#)).
- The Greenland representative wanted information about the experts involved during the meetings for the reports. The EEA representative ensured that the expert meeting report can be shared. The Greenland representative reminded that this report also needs to cover the environmental and renewable energy status of the OCTs, for which additional data and existing assessments of biodiversity of this region can be found with the Arctic Council.

3.2 Mid-Term Review of EU Biodiversity Strategy Review

A representative from the EC DG Environment started the update on the EC's mid-term review (MTR) of EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 by outlining the sequence of events during 2015 that are part of DG Environment's Natural Capital Year. As such a lot of communication will be focused on nature and biodiversity in general. Following EEA's already published SOER 2015 the report on the State of Nature in Europe will be released in April. A special session on biodiversity issues as well as a joint session on biodiversity and energy during the Latvian Presidency informal Council meeting in April in Riga will already provide a forum for initial preliminary changes around the issues of integration, which will be quite prominent in the MTR. On the 5th of May a high-level conference on Green Infrastructure is planned jointly with the Committee of the Regions and the EP, focusing on how green infrastructure could provide a new strategy for infrastructure and development. After the Nature's Conference end of May in Riga within the Latvian Presidency, the EC will organize the Green Week in Brussels between 3 and 5 June. End of September stakeholders of the REFIT Fitness Check will gather for a conference before publishing the Fitness Check report in 2016. The publication of the EU MTR report is planned for October.

This year's [Green Week programme](#) themed "Nature: our health, our wealth" will follow along three streams:

1. *Policy vision* with a focus on the Fitness Check, the new invasive species regulation
2. *Growth and jobs* looking on creating jobs, e.g. in forests or by green infrastructure, new financing instruments by the Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF) and how to support further investments in nature
3. *Quality of life* outlining the importance of health of biodiversity

One lunch-time workshop will be focused on the MTR, others on BEST and LIFE. The conference will provide rooms for exhibitions, films, stands and networking as well as other side events. In parallel satellite events will take place throughout Europe around this time around the theme nature and biodiversity.

The MTR report will comprise two parts: a policy report synthesizing the progress and identifying the barriers and gaps for reaching the 2020 objectives; and technical background documents. Annex I is an assessment of EU progress under each of the targets since 2011 as well as under the headline targets based on a set of agreed indicators and the implementation of their actions. Annex II contains a more detailed analysis of the contribution of the Member States to reach the EU 2020 Biodiversity Targets based on the 5th National reports to the CBD. These two annexes will be published on [BISE](#), the Biodiversity Information System for Europe. The integration of other reports and ongoing activities towards are an important part of MTR.

The roadmap for the coming months contains stakeholder consultation (during Green Week) and inter-service consultations in June, so that the report can be adopted by the EC in October and presented during Council consultations in December 2015,

Discussion on the MTR:

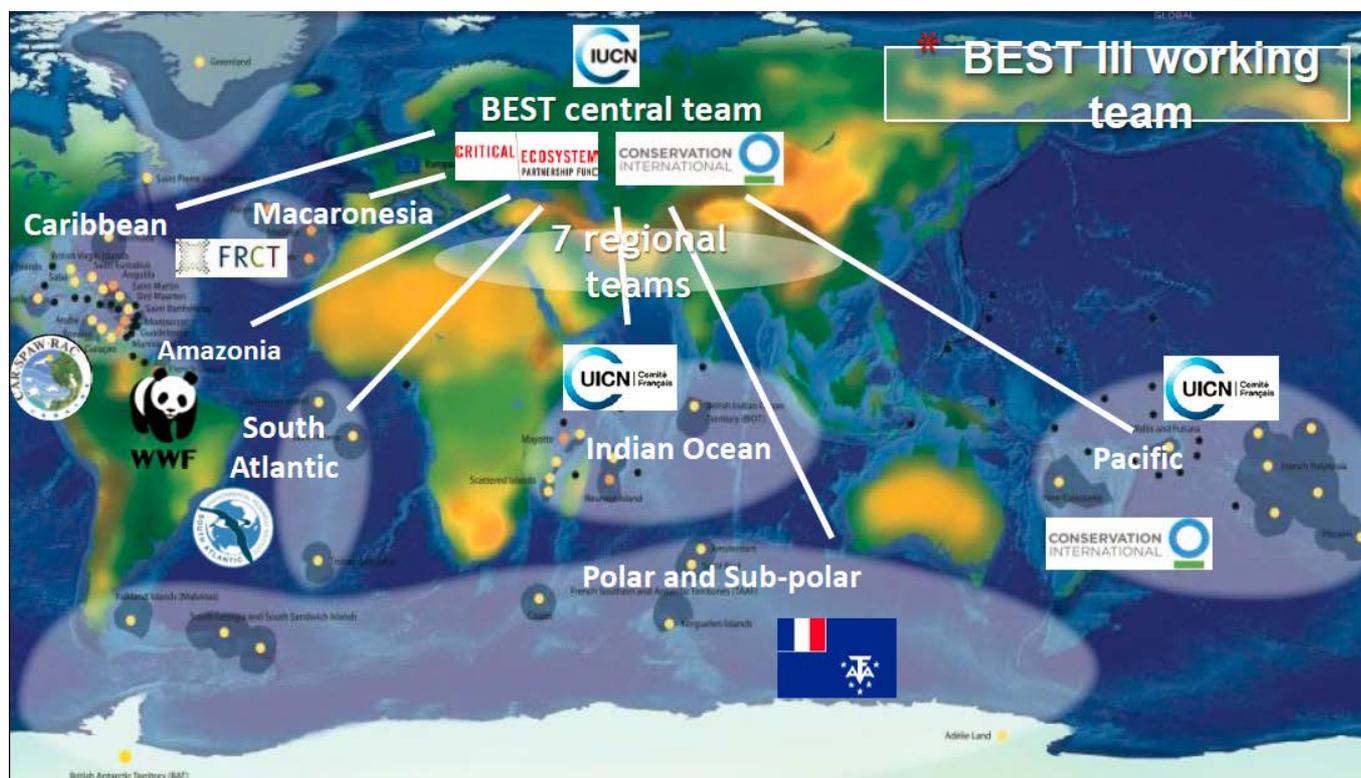
- The Greenland representative asked whether the BEST project will be part of the MTR and whether this review process will be in collaboration with the partners of the project.
>> The representative from the EC DG Environment explained that the BEST partnership, which was already mentioned in the Biodiversity Strategy in 2011, and related projects will be reviewed as well as the other partnerships. Though there will be no formal consultations with BEST stakeholders on the MTR, representatives of the Council and Parliament discussions should liaise with the BEST stakeholders before the report is presented to the Council and the Parliament.

>> Carole Martinez underlined the importance of assessing the BEST initiative in this MTR and on capitalizing on the numerous existing reviews and reports in order to get a good overview of the BEST partnership.

4. BEST Update

4.1 Update on BEST III

The EC DG ENV representative on BEST started her presentation by sharing her positive impressions on the progress of BEST III over the last year and giving a quick overview of the BEST III activities and the BEST III working team consisting of a central coordination team and 7 knowledge hubs anchored in the regions, which allow the implementation of the participatory approach of BEST III. In short, the setting up of the BEST working team, BEST website and other communication tools as well as Steering Committee (SC) meetings twice a year has been carried out successfully and the development of BEST investment strategies and regional ecosystem profiles is in progress.



The BEST III working team: a central team coordinating the implementation of the task in 7 regional knowledge hubs with the support of their partners (© IUCN, 2015).

The various developed communication tools were presented:

- BEST website (<http://ec.europa.eu/best/>), updated regularly, hosted on DG ENV site for relevant exposure
- Printed material in form of a banner and brochures (developed during BEST Preparatory Actions)
- Social media presence in collaboration with the EC (facebook @ EU Environment) and IUCN (facebook and twitter account @ IUCNEurOverseas)
- Supporting online channels: the [Europe Overseas Forum](#) and the [IUCN Europe Overseas](#) website
- BEST e-newsletter (release of [1st issue](#) in spring 2015)
- Short films on EU Overseas entities and BEST (planned for early 2016)

A first draft of the BEST fundraising strategy as a framework document for the BEST investment strategies is discussed with project partners and bilateral meetings with potential partners/investors are ongoing. The fundraising strategy is an integral part of the BEST III project to ensure that existing available money is

accessible to the overseas regions and to attract additional investors in the future, such as from the member states, foundations and the private sector.

The basis for targeted regional investment strategies are the regional ecosystem profiles, which are currently being elaborated by the dedicated regional partners (first drafts available). As a first tangible output the hubs developed a short double-paged factsheet for each region, which can be downloaded at the BEST website under the respective regional page. For the ongoing data collection the hubs established contacts with local and regional stakeholders and formed working groups for consultations on the ecosystem profile and the prioritization of investments for the regional investment strategy. The achievements and progress on the ecosystem profile of each of the 7 knowledge hubs was presented in a brief summary, pointing out that the BEST work builds on existing knowledge and data, which differs amongst the hubs, and fosters synergies with other regional activities and programs.

Apart from the bi-annual SC meetings, ongoing regional workshops for the ecosystem profiles and continuous outreach and donor meetings, other important BEST III activities and events in 2015 will be the intervention of BEST representatives during a side event at the Green Week on the 5th of June 2015 and an event in the European Parliament on the European Overseas in October 2015.

Discussion on the BEST fundraising strategy draft:

- Carole Martinez reaffirmed that the first BEST fundraising strategy draft, which should be seen as a framework document, has been elaborated and is going to be shared and discussed first with all the BEST partners and then with all the BEST SC members. It will serve as a background document for further discussions during the next BEST SC meeting in early June 2015. It was emphasized that it is a dynamic 2-component document with a global strategy that will be updated and completed with the regional BEST strategies, which will be elaborated in a very participatory approach, based on a needs assessments, funding requirements and opportunities.
- The UK Overseas Territories expressed their concern that the planned fundraising activities may compete with existing activities of the regions with funding partners/donors and wanted to know how the BEST strategy is going to prevent this competition. Carole Martinez reassured that the global fundraising strategy is being discussed with the partners and during the SC meetings. As with the BEST regional EPs, the regional investment strategies will be elaborated in the regions with regional and local stakeholder in a fully open and participatory approach to address the issue of competition and foster synergies with existing activities and programmes. Moreover, for fundraising that shall sustain the BEST initiative and long-term financial mechanism for the EU Overseas, while not necessarily the same donors will be addressed, overlapping funding options should be discussed through open liaison amongst regional partners, other existing organizations, stakeholders and donors. On the basis of this explanation the representatives of the UK Overseas Territories Forum launched a reservation on behalf of the UK Overseas Territories.
 - The EC DG ENV representative added that the BEST initiative with the idea for a sustainable financing mechanism for the EU Overseas originated as a follow-up to the Conference and Message from Reunion Island (2008), recognizing the missing funding opportunities and accessibility to small organizations to carry out conservation activities in the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories. BEST should not be seen as a competition but rather as a way to complement and catalyse existing funding opportunities. The BEST initiative as well as the EU Overseas Roundtable have been created and supported by the EC following up the demand from the regional organizations and government expressed in the Message from Reunion Island.
- The St Helena representative for OCTA reaffirmed the point made by The EC DG ENV representative to not be in competition but rather in collaboration to find out ways to facilitate access to numerous existing underused funding, emphasizing that working together is the way forward to promote conservation of biodiversity in all EU Overseas entities, despite some naturally occurring competition between small organizations to source adequate funding.
- Carole Martinez confirmed that alignment of existing initiatives is key to be more efficient in working together and to foster synergies and regional collaboration also with neighbouring countries, to which the open and participatory consultation process in the regions and at this Roundtable shall contribute. The objective of this strategy is to align BEST with other important investments, such as those from CEPF, operating in the same regions but with a different mandate and different targets. Therefore the question should not be how to prevent competition but how to align common efforts that support regional cooperation in order to bring together OCTs, ORs and their regional neighbours.

4.2 The new programme BEST 2.0

The EC DG DEVCO representative started by putting BEST 2.0 in chronological context of the BEST initiative, which shall contribute to meeting the targets of EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 within the budget of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2014-2020, supported by several funding instruments (see [presentation](#)). Recognizing the urgency to continue conservation activities in the EU Overseas, the European Commission's Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (EuropeAid) decided to allocate € 8 million from one of the DCI² thematic programmes of GPGC³ (Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services within the Environment and Climate Change) for concrete projects in the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) through a five-year programme: BEST 2.0 as part of the new EU flagship initiative [Biodiversity for Life \(B4Life\)](#), which was launched in 2014 to raise the profile of biodiversity within the development funds and link biodiversity and ecosystem conservation with sustainable socio-economic development while being in line with the three pillars of the Agenda for Change (good governance, food security and green economy). BEST 2.0 is also in agreement with the environmental dimension of the [EU-OCT Association Decision](#) (objectives outlined on slide 8 of the [presentation](#)), in particular with Article 16, the sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

As BEST III, this programme also aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services, including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as a basis for sustainable development through empowering local authorities and civil society organizations and actors that are committed to work towards these objectives. However, as a development fund from DG DEVCO, BEST 2.0 can only provide direct funds to actors in the OCTs. The programme targets to deliver three main results through the following activities:

- 1. Creation of a facility that provides swift and easy access to resources, and is flexible enough to be adapted to the varying conditions and situations encountered in OCTs.*
 - To elaborate guidelines for submission of proposals, including application forms and taking into account stakeholder consultations and needs assessment.
 - To launch calls for proposals across the implementation period.
 - To carry out region-based advertising and training (capacity building) campaigns.
- 2. Implementation of all projects will have a positive impact on the development and conservation in the OCTs, responding to their needs and priorities as identified in the EU-OCT Association Decision, the OCTs' environmental and regional ecosystem profiles.*
 - To evaluate and select proposals
 - To contract with the selected partners and manage the contracts and payments.
 - To monitor and evaluate the implementation of the selected projects.
- 3. Increasing the OCTs' visibility as key contributors to the achievement of EU and global biodiversity targets (Aichi Targets) through maintenance and restoration of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services and as demonstrators of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation and low-carbon economy through genuine partnerships.*
 - To promote knowledge sharing between the grant beneficiaries at the regional and/or global level in collaboration with existing activities.
 - To promote the visibility of BEST – or more generally, biodiversity in the OCT – within the international biodiversity and sustainable development communities.

The presentation then detailed the tentative calendar of the 5-year programme, the regional scope, the beneficiaries, the type of grants, the scope and the implementation through the BEST 2.0 consortium, which started beginning of 2015, as well as its governance (for more details see [presentation](#) slides 17-20).

Discussion on BEST 2.0:

- Agence des aires marines protégées (AAMP) noted that synergies between the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) from CBD and BEST should be fostered as both have the same objective to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity. It could be beneficial to align the marine objectives of SOI and BEST or have a common programme with the same objectives that focus on the respective marine targets.

² Development Cooperation Instrument

³ Global Public Goods and Challenges

>> It was confirmed that synergies with other related programmes, such as SOI for example, are taken in consideration by the BEST consortium, both for the development of the regional ecosystem profiles (BEST III) and also for awarding grants (BEST 2.0), e.g. for projects that are in line with objectives with the SOI objectives when targeting beneficiaries of OCTs or collaborations with neighbouring countries (e.g. SIDS) to foster ecosystem-based approaches beyond national or regional borders.

- Several participants asked for more detailed information on the timing, the distribution of money between the regions, the different grants, the deadline for each call as well as the submission and selection process.

>> **Two different types of grants**, small (< €100,000) and medium (< €400,000), will be given to all 5 regions, where OCTs occur, at different times through a total of 4 calls for project proposals (2 for each grant type). Two calls are planned in 2015: the first call for small grant proposals will target two regions and the second call for medium-sized projects will target the remaining 3 regions. In 2016, the two regions benefitting from small-sized grants (SG) before will then be eligible to submit projects for medium-sized grants (MG) during another round of calls, while the other 3 regions (medium grants in 2015) will be able to apply for small project grants in 2016. This separation in 2 types of grants, which target different regions at different times, allows for a fair distribution of grants amongst the regions and different types of beneficiaries/local actors. In addition, the SG call will be accompanied by a capacity building process, which shall ensure that applicants' projects meet the BEST 2.0 objectives.

Submission, deadline and selection process: for SG calls initially only a concept note is required to qualify for a pre-selection by a regional expert team, before submitting the full proposal 6 weeks later. For the medium-sized grants a period of 90 days will be given upon launch of the call to prepare and submit the proposal, which should give enough time for local actors to discuss with potential partners.

Timing of grants for each region:

- The first SG and MG calls are foreseen for 2015.
- The second SG and MG calls will be launched in 2016 and target each region again with the type of grant it did not benefit from in 2015.

Left-over money: should not all money be used during the calls, an additional 5th call will be launched to ensure that the local actors really benefit from the full grant money.

- Concerning the governance of BEST 2.0, participants requested the availability of the BEST 2.0 Operational Manual

The **BEST 2.0 Operational Manual**, outlining all the above information in detail, is currently discussed with and revised by the BEST partners and will be made available on a dedicated [BEST 2.0 platform](#) once the final version is validated⁴. In addition, application guidelines are currently developed to provide applicants with the necessary information and selection criteria and ensure an efficient application process.

- The participants wanted to know what is the commitment of the EC beyond BEST III and BEST 2.0 in view of the investment strategy that is currently elaborated as part of BEST III and what is the link between the BEST strategy and BEST 2.0.

>> The EC is currently directly financing BEST through DG ENV (BEST III) and DG DEVCO (BEST 2.0) but DG REGIO is also involved in investing in the EU Overseas regions (in particular the ORs). While the previous two calls and the current BEST 2.0 funding provide grants to regional conservation projects, BEST III as the last year of the BEST preparatory action was launched to build a framework for the future of biodiversity conservation in the EU Overseas regions, which includes the development of a more sustainable financing and governance mechanism as well as ecosystem profiles for the EU Overseas regions as the basis for regional investment strategies. For the implementation of these tasks regional BEST III teams were set up as part of the BEST III contract.

The EU biodiversity strategy 2020 referred to the BEST initiative as a partnership. BEST 2.0 aims to support local actors on the ground during the current transition phase between the preparatory action and the future BEST financial mechanism. In addition to the implementation of the tasks of BEST III, i.e. the development of the BEST investment strategy, there has to be a political move to foster a dialogue between representatives of the ORs, OCTs, member states, the EC and other potential donors to define the format of such a partnership and the future BEST financial mechanism, which was referred to as the BEST group in the [Message from Guadeloupe](#). This group has to be convened as soon as possible in

⁴ The [operational manual](#) is now available online on the [BEST 2.0 platform](#)

order to start the discussions on the different options for the future of BEST, involve relevant stakeholders and make a political decision.

Final remarks from the OCT Task Force on the engagement of the EU in BEST:

- The representative of the OCT Task Force emphasized that the EU has supported conservation of biodiversity, climate change and sustainable energies in the EU OCTs/ORs since the [Message from Reunion Island](#) (2008) and took political decisions during the financial framework (MFF) discussions. Consequently, the 2014-2020 MFF allocated more money to the OCTs/ORs than ever before and the OCTs/ORs have the opportunity to propose to the EC how they want to spend this money. The leading representatives of the OCTs decided to go beyond the targets of these messages and allocate more than 100 million Euros to projects and programmes for the protection of biodiversity, in the field of climate change and sustainable energies, which is much more than was at disposal during the previous financial period (6 million Euros for OCTs and ORs through 3 years of the BEST Preparatory Action)). Therefore the OCTs and ORs have now 5.5 years to submit proposals for investment strategies and actions in these fields and it was clear during the meetings and discussions of the political leaders of the OCTs at the 13th OCT-EU Forum that all stakeholders are aware of the need to make the best use of this financial envelope.

The OCT Task Force representative also pointed out that during recent meetings of leading OCT/OR representatives in the Caribbean regions there was cooperation between the OCTs, ORs and ACPs in the afore mentioned areas. Similarly in the Pacific region, the topics of biodiversity and climate change emerged as key for sustainable development, fostering cooperation between the OCTs, ACPs and SIDS countries.

The OCT Task Force therefore invites to reflect on how cooperative actions in these areas will lead to synergies and not competition and how to best use available resources and capacities. Furthermore, it was emphasized that the OCTs are in many respects leading the way in actions to mitigate or fight climate change as well as sustainable energies. It is noteworthy to highlight complementarity of efforts and funds, which show that there are good opportunities for a wide range of actors in the OCTs and ORs.

As a final note, the OCT Task Force representative expressed his regret over the underrepresentation of ORs leaders during the 20th ORs President Conference in Guadeloupe (mainly Guadeloupe and Martinique were present) as well as during this 7th EU Overseas Roundtable and underlined once again that decisions have to be taken by all the political leaders of these OCTs/ORs.

Carole Martinez thanked the OCT Task Force representative and indicated that the aforementioned meetings are however closed. There is definitely a room for other meetings to allow the wide range of stakeholders and actors to meet, discuss and advise on needs and priorities for actions.

5. TEEB report on ecosystem services valuation research

The 7th EU Overseas Roundtable finished with a presentation of the recent publication “Towards a sustainable island economy” by [Wolfs Company](#), a research company based on Bonaire, who provides analysis of natural capital as well as recommendations and tools for its sustainable use and mainstreaming into policy-making.

Unfortunately, today there is still competition for funding between projects investing in socio-economic areas and projects investing in environment, as nature is often not yet understood as part of the development equation. However, nature is necessary to achieve a sustainable economy as large proportion of income in the Caribbean overseas entities (60-74% on the 3 presented Caribbean islands) directly or indirectly depends on ecosystem services. Thus the goal of OCTs should be the transition to a sustainable island economy and this presentation focused on practical tools for all stakeholders to achieve them. The recent TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) studies analysed ecosystem services and the values they generate for humans by putting numbers on these values in order to raise awareness and provide decision support for stakeholders.

Taking the example of the tourism industry, the studies show the added value of natural capital being intrinsically linked to the health of the ecosystems and their services. Therefore keeping nature healthy is considered the most effective tourist campaign and thus income generation as most people would only return if the islands' nature remains in good condition. However, this nature values can also be used to influence policy scenarios by demonstrating the favourable benefits/cost ratio for conservation over restoration, which

provided the Dutch government with the necessary information to allocate more funding in conservation projects. To illustrate the spatial distribution of natural capital, the analysed data was utilized to create “value maps”, which show the total economic value of the area. These maps often demonstrate a disconnection between the spatial planning and the most valuable areas, i.e. the highest natural (economic) value is not necessarily aligned with the protected areas, which suggests to expand the national park areas to include those areas with the highest natural (economic) value. In the presentation the example of Saba Island was used (see [presentation](#) slide 9).

In another survey Dutch citizens of continental Netherlands were asked how much money they would give to conserve the nature of Bonaire, which is referred to as non-use value, i.e. a value that is given to something that may not be consumed by the donor directly. The results revealed that more than half of the total economic value of Bonaire is non-use value (see [presentation](#) slide 10), showing that the biodiversity and healthy nature of these EU Overseas territories holds an important value for mainland Europe and influencing the Dutch government to allocate more funding into nature conservation rather than (grey) development as Dutch citizens clearly approve to give their money to nature conservation in these territories.

The importance of communicating these results was recognized by the Dutch government and allocated significant budget to make the results in these TEEB reports accessible and comprehensible to all relevant stakeholders through mainstream communication channels such as websites, newspapers, dive magazines, TV, documentaries as well as to provide policy recommendations through policy briefs.

In addition, the results of the studies fostered regional cooperation by getting different local stakeholders from different islands together in workshops in order to share problems and best practices but also build capacity and enable more efficient policy testing. Cooperation between local stakeholders is further enhanced through EU governments and organisations, like the Dutch government and JNCC, who have understood the strategic value of the islands’ natural capital and have actively funded research in this field.

The second part of the presentation focused on the practical aspects of implementing the insights of the study by providing tools to islands and the role of the private sector.

Ecosystems provide several services and goods to the private sector, such as fish or recreational places for tourism, but at the same time the exploitation of these services by the private sector also impacts the ecosystems, on which they depend. Consequently, it is desirable to maximize the opportunities for the private sector while minimizing the risks they impose through negative impacts on the ecosystems.

A business survey in the Dutch Caribbean showed that a large majority of the private sector on Bonaire and Anguilla depends on healthy ecosystems but public-private collaboration and good governance are key in the transformation towards a sustainable economy to overcome main constraints for investing in sustainable development and green investments, such as weak government support and high interest rates at banks.

The studies aim to demonstrate the benefits of a sustainable economy for all sectors (private and public) when integrating environment, society and economy. However, this integrated approach of initiatives is often still missing on Caribbean islands to achieve a sustainable economy. While there have been many indicator sets developed internationally that measure development as a sum of environmental, policy, economic and social aspects, they often do not translate well into the small island context. TEEB tried to adapt these indicators and extracted key performance indicators (KPIs) from the list of existing international indicators, which were relevant to islands and for which data is available to measure sustainable development, and developed two instruments: a tool to monitor the indicators in each aspect (environment, economy, society, governance) and an impact assessment tool to analyze the policy impact of determined goals.

The presentation concluded that a transition towards a sustainable island economy requires:

1. Understanding of the value of natural capital (i.e. communication and cooperation)
2. Integrated approach for sustainable development, which includes integral policy planning with clear indicators to monitor and pre-assess policy plans

Discussion on TEEB studies:

- The DG ENV representative underlined the synergies and connection to BEST and encouraged the BEST partners and local actors to contribute to these types of studies.
- Carole Martinez mentioned that discussions are ongoing with TEEB for repeating these types of analyses and studies in the Pacific and more particularly in French Polynesia, where the BEST partners are very interested in incorporating ecosystem services in the ecosystem profile.

6. Final remarks and conclusions

Carole Martinez wrapped up the event by thanking all the presenters and participants of this Roundtable.

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF) representative announced that the international [Conference on Sustaining Partnerships in Gibraltar](#) from 11th to 15th July 2015 is open to everyone, not only UK OCT representatives.

The next Roundtable will be organized in October in Brussels. A doodle will be sent in due time to find the most suitable date and ideas/proposals for this next Roundtable are welcome anytime.

Appendix 1: Agenda 7th EU Overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change

31st March 2015, 10:00–13:00h; DG REGIO, Room REGIO VIP, Avenue Beaulieu 5, 1160 Brussels

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker	Objective/Outcome
10h00 – 10h05	Welcome and presentation of the agenda	Carole MARTINEZ - IUCN	
10h10 – 10h30	<u>The Islands Declaration on Climate change</u> adopted in La Réunion Island in June 2014 Open discussion	Florence PIGNOLET – Réunion Island Regional Council	Presentation of the declaration in the prospect of the UNFCCC COP21, Paris
10h30 – 11h15	Follow up of the <u>International Conference on biodiversity and climate change</u> (21-25 October 2014, Guadeloupe Island): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaration of ORS President Conference Declaration of OCT-UE Forum Open discussion	OR representatives Benito WEATHLEY - BVI Ann PHILIPPS – Curaçao	Message from Guadeloupe follow up English and French versions are available on line as well as useful documents
11h15 – 11h45	The State of Environment Report (SOER) 2015 The EU Biodiversity Strategy Mid-term review and the European Conference in Riga 26-27 May 2015 Open discussion	Frank Wugt LARSEN – EEA DG ENV	Main findings and EU Overseas biodiversity review Stocktaking on the implementation of the EU Biodiversity strategy, input to its mid-term review. What place for EU Overseas?
11h45 – 12h30	Update on BEST III Project The new programme BEST 2.0 Open discussion	Karin ZAUNBERGER – DG ENV Arnold Jacques DE DIXMUDE – DG DEVCO	Main milestones Presentation of new funding opportunities
12h30 – 12h50	Ecosystem services valuation research and impact of such studies Green Economy Monitoring instruments for small island economies Open discussion	Viviana LUJAN and Stijn SCHEP – Wolfs Company	Open discussion and potential collaborations
12h50 – 13h	Next steps - Upcoming events	All participants	
End of Meeting			

Appendix 2: Participant organizations of the 7th meeting of the Roundtable

31st March 2015, 10:00–13:00h; DG REGIO, Room REGIO VIP, Avenue Beaulieu 5, 1160 Brussels

#	Organization
1	Agence des Aires Marines Protégées (AAMP)
2	Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels (ATEN)
3	BirdLife International
4	Conservation International-Europe (CI)
5	European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)
6	European Commission DG DEVCO
7	European Commission DG ENV
8	European Commission OCT Task Force
9	European Commission DG REGIO
10	European Environment Agency (EEA)
11	European Parliament / MEP Maurice Ponga's office
12	French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (MEDDE - <i>Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement durable et de l'Énergie</i>)
13	French Ministry of Overseas (MOM- <i>Ministère des Outre-mers</i>)
14	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
15	IUCN French National Committee
16	Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union Association (OCTA)
17	PEW Charitable Trusts
18	Representation of Aruba
19	Representation of the British Virgin Islands (BVI)
20	Representation of French Polynesia
21	Representation of Greenland
22	Representation of New Caledonia
23	Representation of Pitcairn Islands
24	Representation of St Helena
25	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
26	UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
27	UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
28	UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
29	UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF)
30	Wolfs Company
31	WWF France