

BEST

VOLUNTARY SCHEME
FOR **B**IODIVERSITY AND
ECOSYSTEM **S**ERVICES
IN **T**ERRITORIES OF
EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



BEST 2.0

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

In

EU Overseas Countries and Territories

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BEST as a ***FLEXIBLE*** scheme

A wide objective

Promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in European Outermost Regions (ORs) and European Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs).

Open to ORs, OCTs and third Countries

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BEST as a TAILORED scheme

- ✓ NO prescription of duration nor budget

European co-financing up to 95%



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Key facts of existing 18 BEST projects

- *wide geo-political spread*
- *all geographic OR/OCT regions are covered*
- *public and private organisations, researchers, civil society, international and regional organisations*
- *global, regional and local levels represented*
- *wide range of topics – protected areas designation and management, invasive species, climate change, assessment and valuation of ecosystem services, policy tools, networking, communication, education, capacity building ... building BEST*
- *duration: from 9 to 36 months*
- *number of partners: from 1 to 9 (90% 1/2/3)*
- *own contribution: 5% (31 proposals, 45%) to 69%*

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EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



BEST III consortium activities

Lot 1:

- Setting up a
 - **BEST working team** (central team + 7 regional hubs)
 - **BEST III Steering Committee** and organise regular meetings
 - **BEST platform** for regular exchange between stakeholders
- Organising **fundraising activities** to leverage long-term funding
- Developing **BEST investment strategies** based on regional strategies

Lot 2:



- Developing **regional and sub-regional ecosystem profiles**

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EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



An initiative of international importance

An international recognition:

Decision of the [CBD COP XI/157](#) on the Review of the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity mentions the BEST initiative among the “the progress on sustainable financing mechanisms developed in island regions for climate change and Biodiversity”.

Acknowledged as a Bright spot in the CBD IDB publication

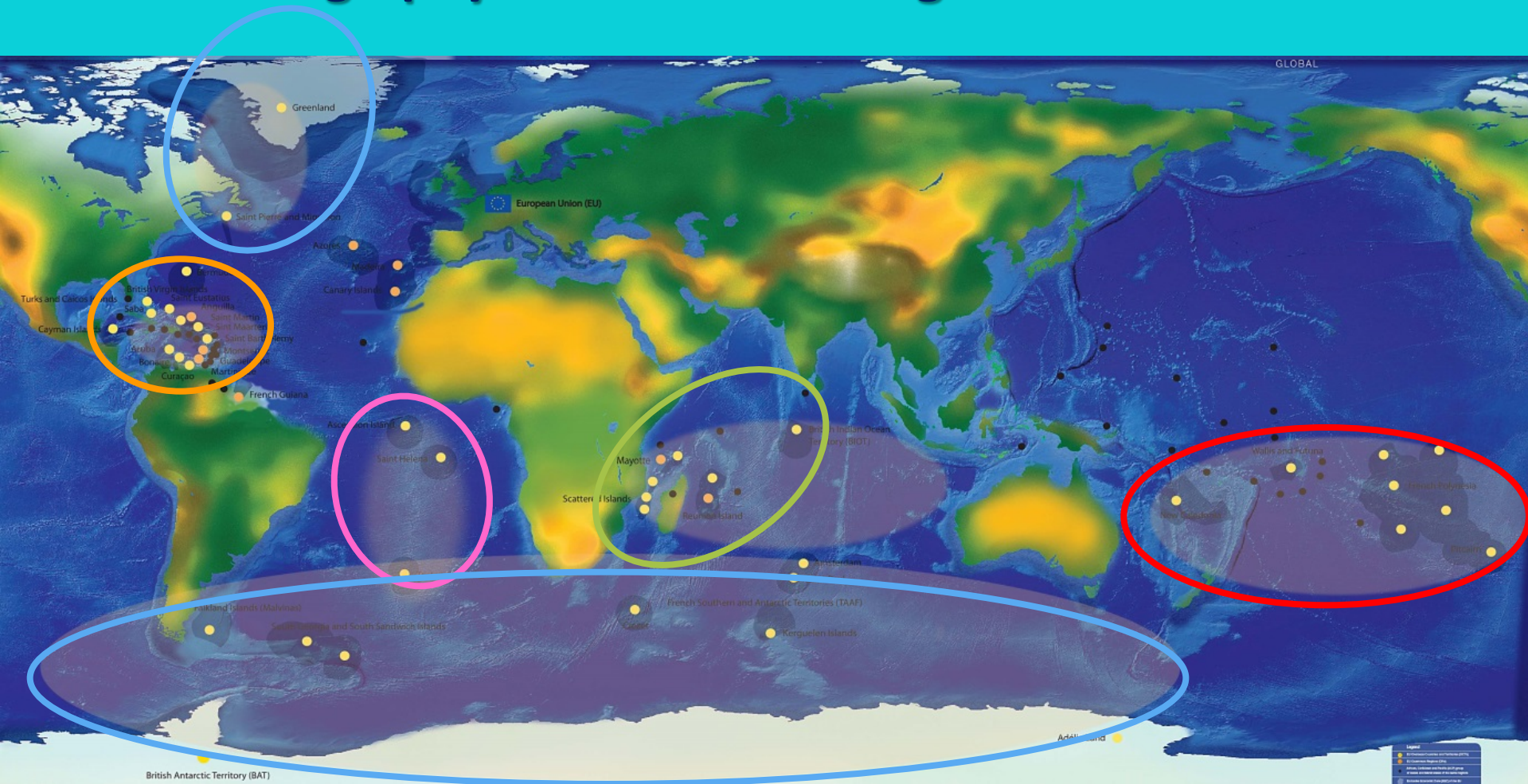
An important contribution to global biodiversity

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Geography of BEST 2.0: 5 Regions with OCTs



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Calls for proposals

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Types of Grants

Type of Grant		BEST 2.0 Funding	Typical Duration
Small Grants	Swift Small Grants	≤ € 50 000	12-18 months
	Small Grants	> € 50 000 and ≤ € 100 000	12-24 months
Medium Grants		> € 100 000 and ≤ € 400 000	Up to 36 months

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EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



A regional approach

- Calls will not target all the regions at the same time but few of them each time
- No SG and MG calls at the same time
- Each region will benefit at least 1 SG + 1 MG call for proposal
- Capacity building ensured by regional teams
- Independent Regional review of the proposals to be validated by the European Commission

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Decision-making on Project Applications

Due diligence &
Compliance with EU
regulation + OP review

Consistency and
synergy with the
ecosystem profiles
outcomes review



Final grant decisions

Independent technical
and scientific review of
the proposals

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Provisional Agenda

➤ 2 calls 2015: September



➤ 2 calls 2016 : Spring

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2015: SG calls-3 Regions

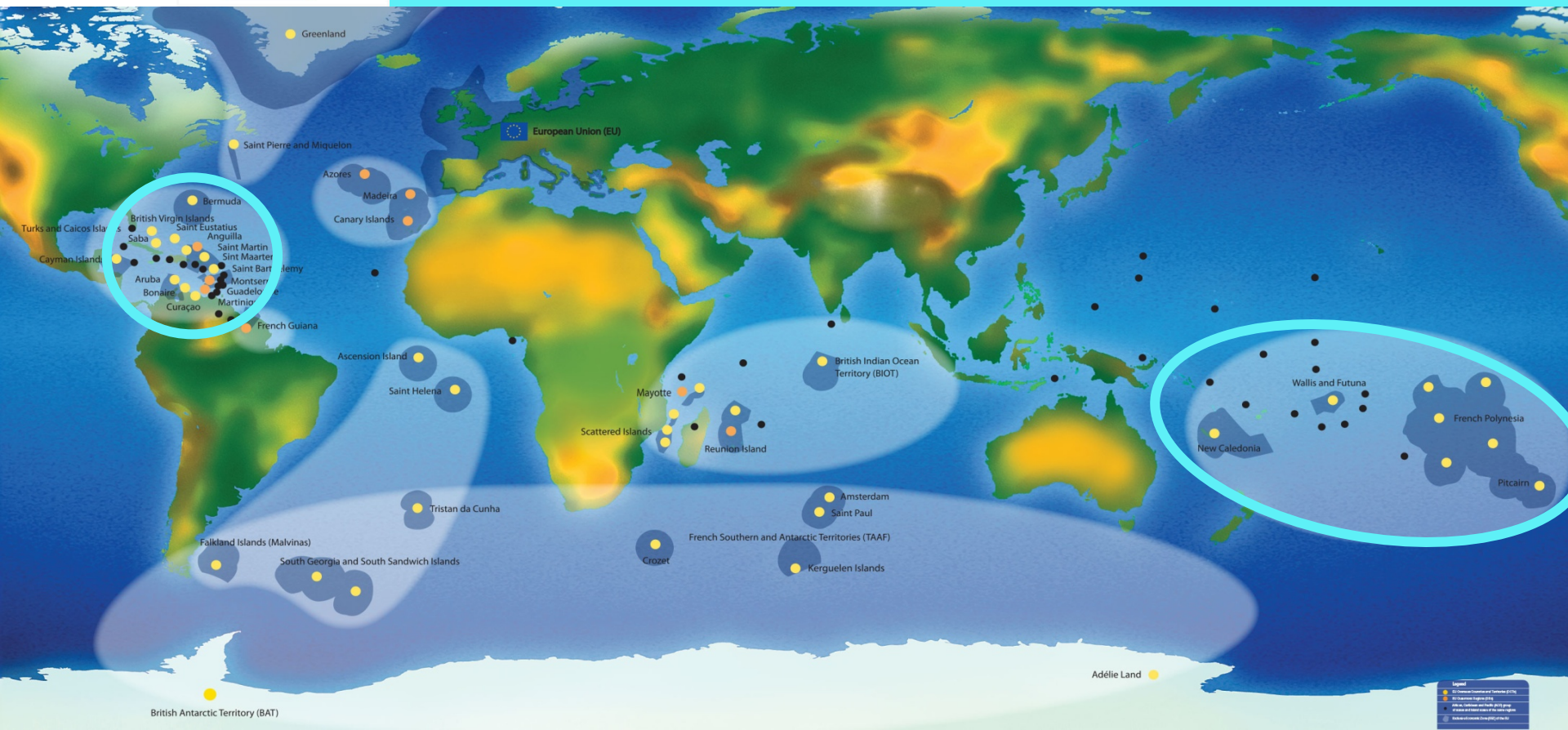


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2015: MG calls-2 Regions



Legend

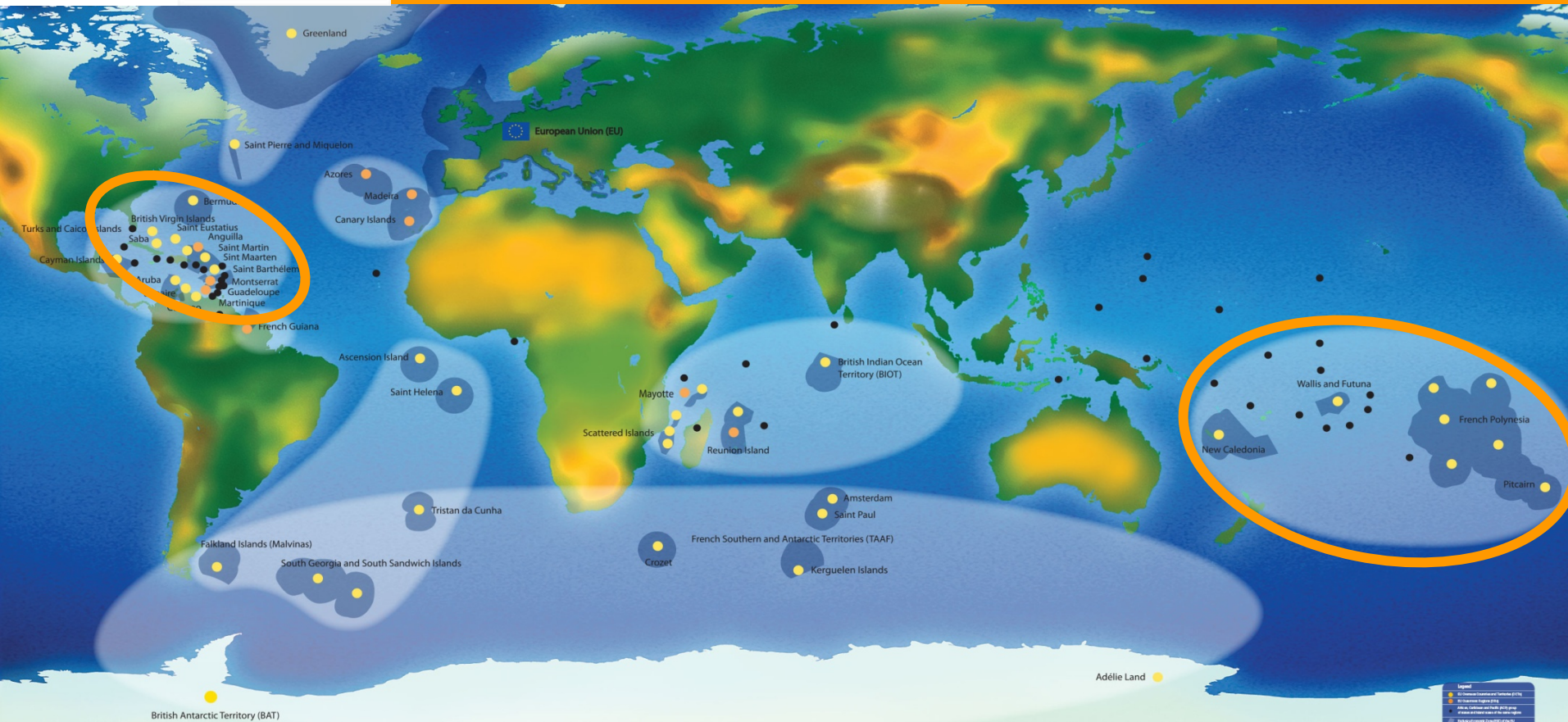
- 2015 MG calls-2 Regions
- 2015 MG calls-2 Regions
- 2015 MG calls-2 Regions
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- 2015 MG calls-2 Regions

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2016: SG calls-2 Regions



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2016: MG call-3 Regions



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Provisional agenda 2015

September
2015

- Indian Ocean
- South Atlantic
- Polar S-Polar

SG

For projects
≤ 100 000 €

MG

- Caribbean
- Pacific

For projects
≤ 400 000 €

TbC

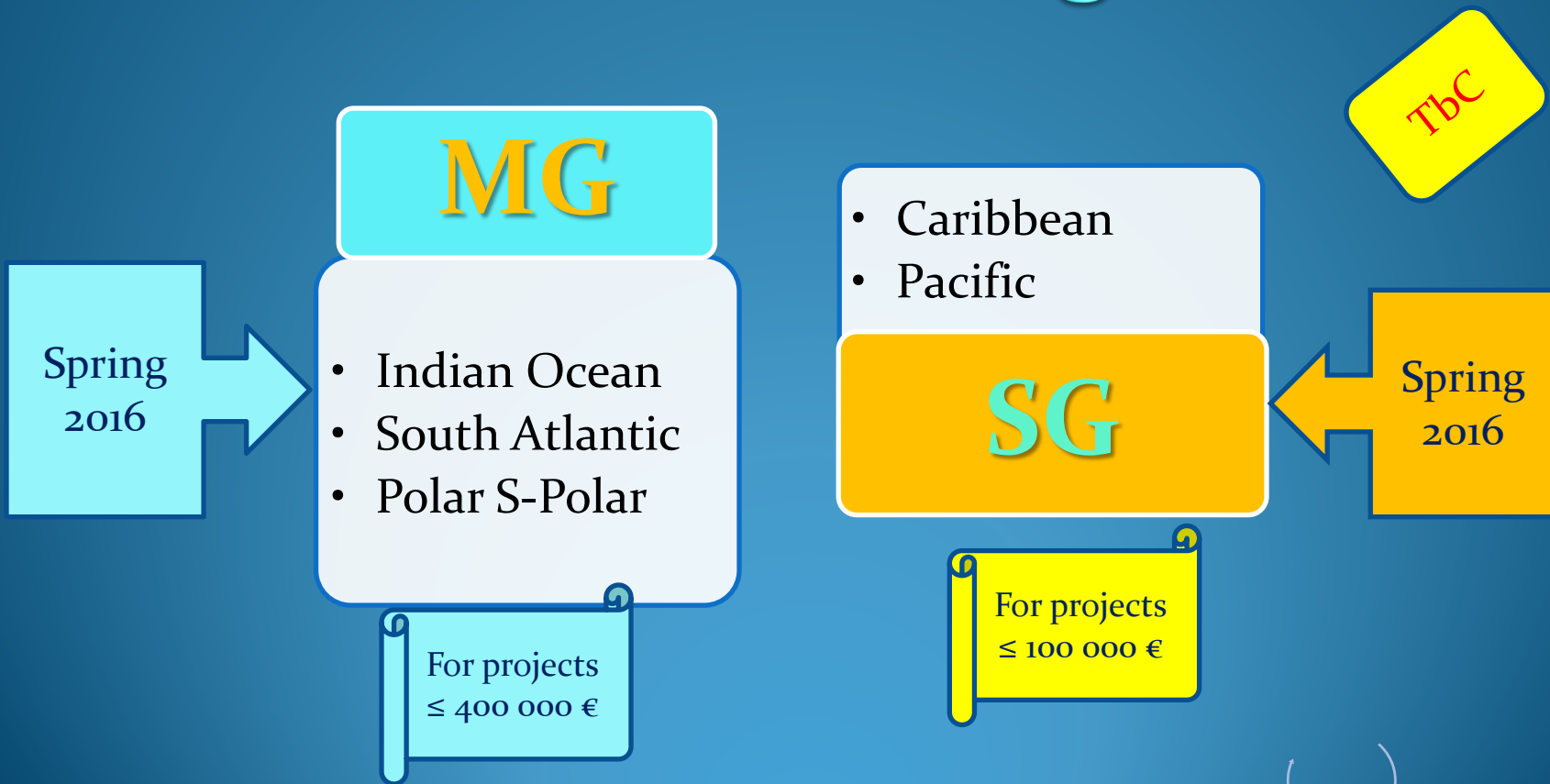
September
2015

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IN TERRITORIES OF
EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



Provisional agenda 2016



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ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
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EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



Objectives & Criteria

- BEST 2011 & 2012 objectives
- Overseas Association Decision, in particular Article 16
- BEST Business Case
- +
- Additional BEST 2.0 criteria

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EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



BEST I & II objectives

- a) promote the establishment and effective management of marine and terrestrial protected areas (PAs) in the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories, also taking into account already existing PAs;
- b) implement sustainable management of marine and terrestrial resources, which contribute to protecting important species, habitats and ecosystem functions outside PAs;

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FOR BIODIVERSITY AND
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EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



BEST I & II objectives

- c) strengthen conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories by :
 - - addressing the wider ecosystem challenge of climate change by maintaining healthy, resilient ecosystems and fostering green infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation which often bring multiple benefits;

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EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



BEST I & II objectives

- - strengthening capacities at a local and regional scale, including the neighbouring countries, by promoting exchange of information and best practice amongst all stakeholders including local administration, landowners, private sector, researchers and civil societies etc... ;
- - strengthening existing nature conservation programmes and related efforts within and outside conservation areas;
- - broadening the knowledge base and filling the knowledge gaps, including quantifying the value of ecosystem functions and services;

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EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



BEST I & II objectives

- d) encourage and facilitate transboundary working; addressing issues such as invasive alien species, the impacts of climate change and the implementation of international conventions in particular CITES and the three Rio Conventions ;
- e) develop mechanisms to lever resources including ‘payments for ecosystem-services’ (PES)."

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ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
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EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



BEST business case objectives

As stated for the BEST Preparatory Action, the objectives of the facility should be:

- • Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in OR and OCTs;
- • Sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in ORs and OCTs;
- • Development and use of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- • Networking, capacity building, building of new and strengthening of existing partnerships;
- • Promote regional cooperation including with developing countries.

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ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
IN TERRITORIES OF
EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



Overseas Association Decision, Art.16

Sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services :

In the context of the association, cooperation in the field of sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services may concern:

- (a) the promotion of the establishment and effective management of marine and terrestrial protected areas and improved management of existing protected areas;
- (b) the encouragement of sustainable management of marine and terrestrial resources, which contribute to protecting species, habitats and ecosystem functions outside protected areas, in particular, endangered, vulnerable and rare species;
- (c) the strengthening of conservation and sustainable use of marine and terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystems by:

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FOR BIODIVERSITY AND
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
IN TERRITORIES OF
EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



Overseas Association Decision, Art.16

Sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services :

- (i) addressing the wider ecosystem challenge of climate change by maintaining healthy, resilient ecosystems and fostering green infrastructure and ecosystem- based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation which often bring multiple benefits;
- (ii) strengthening capacities at a local, regional and/or international scale, by promoting exchange of information, knowledge and best practice amongst all stakeholders including public authorities, landowners, private sector, researchers and civil society;
- (iii) strengthening existing nature conservation programmes and related efforts within and outside conservation areas;
- (iv) broadening the knowledge base and filling the knowledge gaps, including quantifying the value of ecosystem functions and services;

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FOR BIODIVERSITY AND
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
IN TERRITORIES OF
EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



Overseas Association Decision, Art.16

Sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services :

- (d) the encouragement and facilitation of regional cooperation in order to address issues such as invasive alien species or the impacts of climate change;
- (e) the development of mechanisms to lever resources including payments for ecosystem services.

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IN TERRITORIES OF
EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



Additional Criteria

- Relevance Regional EP & Investment strategies
- Support local strategy implementation + OCT
Env. profiles
- Geographical representativeness
- +
- Bonus criteria : Foster regional cooperation*

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EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



Additional Criteria

BEST investment strategies developed with local actors to insure that the investment strategies and fund-raising actions will **address the needs on the ground**

BEST 2.0 Criteria:

- **Project relevance regarding regional Ecosystem Profile and Investment strategy when existing:**

Project objectives target or address at least one identified priorities



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EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



Additional Criteria



BEST 2.0 Criteria:

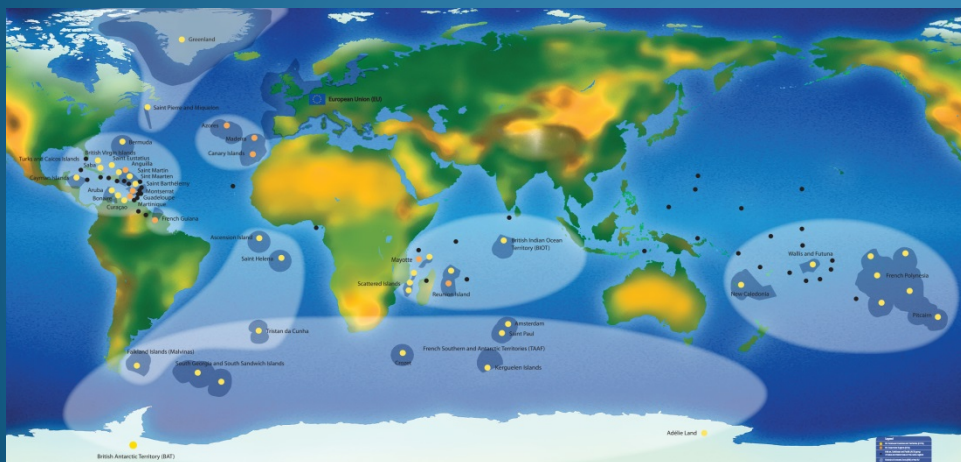
- Projects support local strategies
- Projects support implementation of the OCT Environmental Profiles

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Additional Criteria



BEST 2.0 Criteria:

➤ **Geographical
representativeness**

v/ BEST 2011 & 2012

that covered all regions

but not all OCTs

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Additional Criteria



BEST 2.0 Bonus Criteria:

- Projects involving or benefitting more than one OCT will be encouraged
- Projects fostering regional cooperation



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BEST business case

The facility should approach regional collaboration and linkages in the following manner:

- policy on and approach to regional integration should be spelled out and reflected in investment policy and funding guidelines;*
- the focus should remain on OCTs and ORs, responding in priority to the existing needs, and avoiding the dispersion and dilution of efforts;*
- joint activities between ORs and/or OCTs and neighbouring countries should be encouraged, even if funding provided by the facility primarily targets OCTs and ORs;*
- the facility should encourage and support the participation of ORs and OCTs in the regional institutions and processes that are relevant to them and in which they are currently unable to participate fully, if at all;*

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IN TERRITORIES OF
EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



BEST business case

The facility should approach regional collaboration and linkages in the following manner:

- the facility should seek to improve coherence and create synergies between European initiatives in OCTs and/or ORs and those in neighboring territories, countries, sub-regions and regions;*
- sub-regional approaches should therefore be supported, based on geographic, institutional and other realities and commonalities;*
- while these regional and sub-regional approaches and collaborations should be encouraged, they should not be imposed.*

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Eligibility criteria



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Eligibility

Further details in the Operational
Manual and Guidelines for
Applicants

SG+
MG

Local civil society: non-governmental and small socio-professional organisations, municipalities

MG

Territorial governments and services

MG

National, Regional and International Organisations active in the territory(ies)* *Condition: Partnership with from local government and or local civil society/ socio-professional actors + capacity building oriented

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Budget principles

Priority to SG

Regions differences

Importance of flexibility to avoid reserve list

Little reserve to avoid reserve list

+ Additional SG call(s) for proposal in 2017 if still budget left

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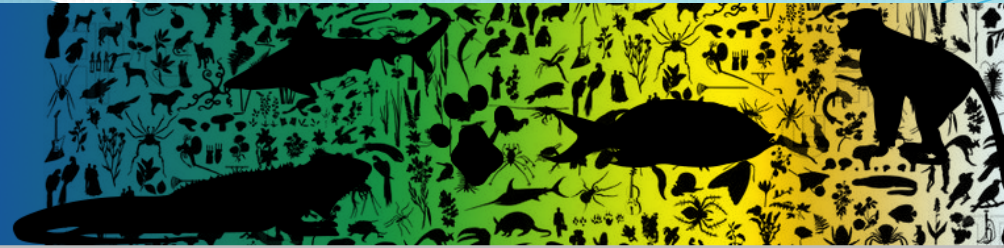
Tools

BEST 2.0 webpage

- Hosted on EC website

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NATURE & BIODIVERSITY

EU Biodiversity Policy

- What is biodiversity?
- EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy
- Biodiversity policy development
- Economics of Biodiversity
- Biodiversity Proofing
- No Net Loss
- Access and Benefit Sharing
- Business and Biodiversity
- BEST Initiative
 - Introduction
 - About
 - Partners
 - Projects
 - Regions
 - Funding announcements
 - Best Practices
 - News and events
 - Contact

BEST Initiative

Introduction

About

Partners

Projects

Current projects

Projects in need of funding

Regions

Funding announcements

Best Practices

News and events

Contact

BEST – voluntary scheme for **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services** in Territories of European overseas – aims to support the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation in the EU Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs)

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MAILING LIST

<http://ec.europa.eu/best/>

BEST 2.0 Grant portal

www.portal.iucn.org/best

- **Key information:**

- ✓ Objectives of BEST 2.0
- ✓ Calls for proposal agenda
- ✓ Operational Manual
- ✓ Grants application info
- ✓ Guidelines for Applicants
- ✓ Templates for SG and MG

