

BEST

VOLUNTARY SCHEME
FOR BIODIVERSITY AND
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
IN TERRITORIES OF
EUROPEAN OVERSEAS



BEST IMPACT FACTSHEET

CARIBBEAN · 2015 - 2023



BEST IN THE CARIBBEAN

**STRENGTHENING GLOBAL
CONSERVATION**



- Bermuda
- Cayman Islands
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- British Virgin Islands
- Anguilla
- Saint Martin
- Sint Maarten
- Saint Barthélemy
- Saba
- Sint Eustatius
- Montserrat
- Martinique
- Aruba
- Curaçao
- Bonaire
- Guadeloupe



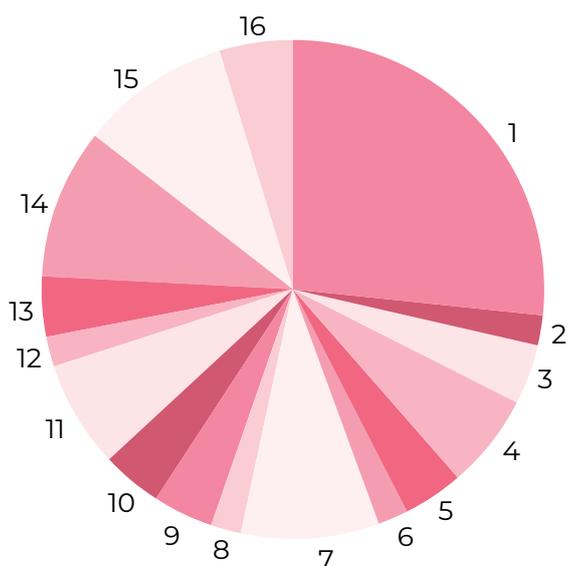
BEST IN THE CARIBBEAN

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL CONSERVATION

The Caribbean region is home to 16 European Overseas entities politically attached to the United Kingdom¹, France and the Netherlands. With a tropical climate, these territories are home to contrasting ecosystems: from rainforests and rivers to dry scrublands and coral reefs and mangroves. The Caribbean islands' hotspot supports important biodiversity - within its diverse terrestrial ecosystems hosting a high proportion of endemism - making the region one of the world's greatest centres of biodiversity. From 2015 to 2023, the BEST programmes supported 36 field actions in this region worth €3.4 million.

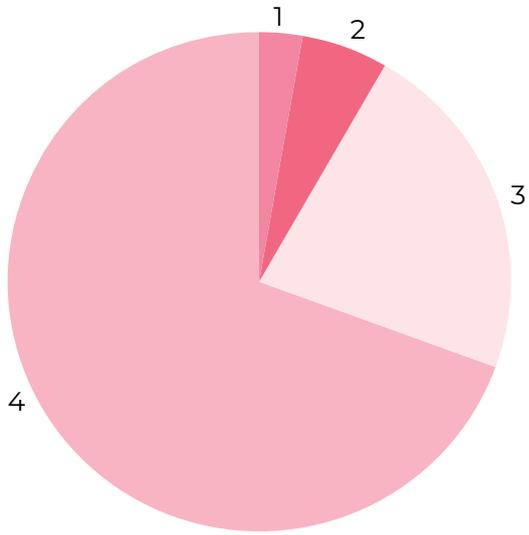
¹ BREXIT: In accordance with the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement of the UK from the EU, the UK registered natural and legal persons – and goods originating from the UK – was eligible for BEST funding as if the UK were an EU Member State for all programmes financed under the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF 2014-2020) and under the European Development Fund (11th EDF and previous ones till their conclusion).

Total funding
€ 3,413,962.32



No of projects

			%
1.	Martinique	10	26.7
2.	British Virgin Islands	1	1.9
3.	Cayman Islands	1	4.0
4.	Turks and Caicos	2	6.0
5.	Montserrat	1	4.0
6.	Aruba	1	1.9
7.	Anguilla	3	8.8
8.	Curaçao	1	1.9
9.	Sint Maarten	1	4.0
10.	Sint Eustatius	1	4.0
11.	Saba	2	6.8
12.	Saint Barthélemy	1	1.9
13.	Bermuda	1	4.0
14.	Bonaire	3	9.6
15.	Guadeloupe	3	9.6
16.	Saint Martin	2	4.7
	TOTAL	36	



Beneficiaries

		%	
1.	SMEs	1	2.8
2.	Research organisations	2	5.6
3.	Local authorities	8	22.2
4.	NGOs	25	69.4



Key achievements

Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services	89% of projects
Focus on marine areas	69.00% of projects
Species with an updated inventory	1,429
Endangered species that benefited from protection measures	96
Projects that contributed to climate change mitigation or adaptation	28
Volunteers	410
Individuals trained	1,085
Events	250
People reached by events	11,630
People reached by comms	264,000
Collaborations	157
Activity beyond	47% of projects

ABOUT BEST

The [BEST initiative](#) started as a follow-up to the ‘[Message from Réunion Island](#)’¹, which called for a dedicated funding mechanism to support the conservation of EU Overseas’ biodiversity. The [BEST Preparatory Action, adopted by the European Parliament in 2010 \(BEST PA\)](#), provided seed money to fund 16 projects via two calls for project proposals known as [BEST I-2011](#) and [BEST II-2012](#). The work enabled through the BEST PA stimulated further investment in the EU Overseas through [BEST RUP](#), in the French Outermost Regions (ORs) and [BEST 2.0](#), in the Overseas Countries and Territories² (OCTs). In 2019-2020, LIFE4BEST and BEST 2.0+ followed the end of BEST RUP and BEST 2.0 respectively, supporting 40 projects in the ORs and 23 in the OCTs. Both programmes support field actions that aim to enable, empower and strengthen local authorities and civil society organisations committed to local development, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services.

For more information on the BEST Initiative:

<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/best>

<https://www.best2plus.org>

<https://www.life4best.org/>



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1 Outcome of the Conference “European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss” held under the French Presidency in 2008.

2 As a result of Brexit, the number of Overseas Countries and Territories associated with the EU has been reduced from 25 to 13.