

BEST

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

BEST IMPACT FACTSHEET

INDIAN OCEAN • 2015-2019



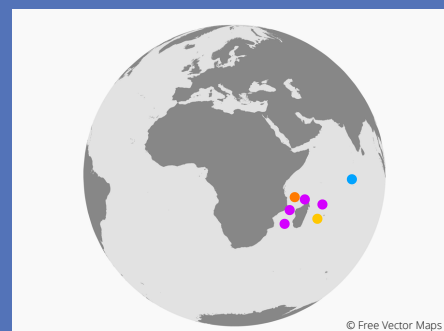
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BEST IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

STRENGTHENING LOCAL CONSERVATION

Positioned around Madagascar, the four European Overseas entities of the Indian Ocean have specific characteristics and form a very mixed area with various biodiversity challenges.

The two French Outermost Regions, Réunion Island and Mayotte are among the most densely populated areas in Europe, while the two Overseas Countries and Territories, the French Scattered Islands and the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) are uninhabited. The Scattered Islands are composed of five islands – Tromelin, Glorioso, Juan de Nova, Bassas da India, Europa – and BIOT, also the called Chagos Archipelago is formed by five atolls and 55 islands. All these territories share the same climate, and are frequently hit by tropical cyclones.



Réunion

Mayotte

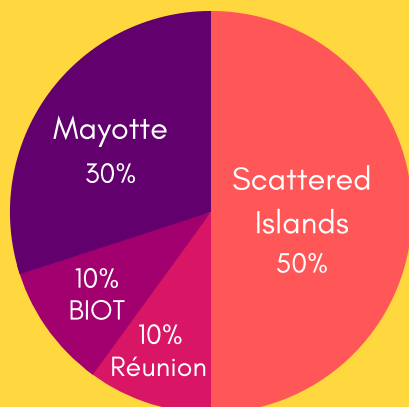
Scattered Islands

British Indian Ocean Territory

OVERALL FIGURES

BEST supported field actions to empower and strengthen local stakeholders committed to local development, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services. 10 projects – worth €1,000,000 in total – were supported by BEST in the region.

Geographical Scope of Projects



Grant Beneficiaries



BEST projects contributed to multiple Aichi Biodiversity Targets, primarily:

- Target 2: Biodiversity values integrated
- Target 9: Invasive alien species prevented and controlled
- Target 11: Protected areas increased and improved
- Target 14: Ecosystems and essential services safeguarded
- Target 15: Ecosystems restored and resilience enhanced

PROJECT RESULTS

CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY, SUSTAINABLE USE OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



- **395 km²** covered by **Invasive Alien Species prevention and control** measures.
- **3,492 km²** benefited from **new assessments or analysis**, as below:

Marine and Coastal Areas
2,225 km²



Terrestrial and Freshwater Areas
1,267 km²

All the projects were dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, with a focus on terrestrial areas (60%). Project amounts ranged from €6,000 to €400,000.



- An **updated assessment** (inventory) was carried out for **236 species**.
- **11 new species discovered for the first time**: Colubrina, Cynorkis, Diospyros, Erythroxylum, Gagnebina, Gymnosiphon, Kedrostis, Volkameria, Brissalius, Echinolampas, Metalia sp.
- **28 endangered species benefited** from protection measures.

PROJECT RESULTS

CAPACITY BUILDING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND VISIBILITY



- **11 jobs** were supported, and over **100 volunteers** were involved in BEST projects.
- **128 individuals** were **trained** by BEST beneficiaries.



- **24 education and awareness-building events** were organised, reaching more than **47,000 people**.
- Projects resulted in over **20 publications**.



- **50 collaborations** were **initiated or strengthened** at the local, regional, and international level.
- **80% of projects** extended their activities beyond the lifespan of the BEST grants.

ABOUT BEST

BEST 2.0 and BEST RUP are programmes respectively financed by the European Commission (EC) – DG DEVCO and DG ENV through the LIFE Programme of the European Union.

Since 2011, the BEST Initiative has supported the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services, including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, in the 9 EU Outermost Regions (ORs), and 25 Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), through more than 100 projects.

The IUCN French Committee was a partner to BEST 2.0 for the Indian Ocean region.



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For more information on the BEST Initiative:

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

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/our-work/eu-overseas/good-better-best>

In 2020, BEST 2.0+ and LIFE4BEST programmes took over following the end of BEST 2.0 covering the OCTs and BEST RUP covering the ORs. To learn more, visit:

<https://www.best2plus.org>

<https://www.life4best.org>