

# BEST

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

## BEST IMPACT FACTSHEET

PACIFIC • 2015-2019



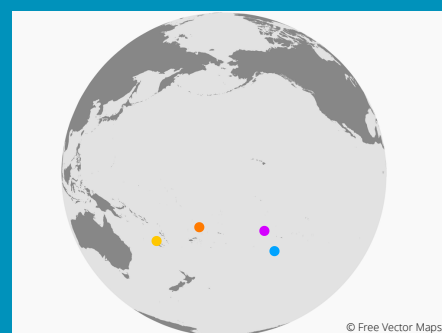
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## BEST IN THE PACIFIC

### STRENGTHENING LOCAL CONSERVATION

From 2015 to 2019, the BEST 2.0 (Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas) programme supported field actions to empower and strengthen local stakeholders committed to local development, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services. 24 projects, worth over € 2.8 million, were supported by BEST 2.0 in the Pacific.

The Pacific region brings together four Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) – New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, French Polynesia, and the Pitcairn Islands – spread over 150 islands and more than 20% of atolls in the world. It is the second-largest European Overseas region, and its biodiversity is threatened by habitat destruction, invasive species, economic activities, and climate change.



© Free Vector Maps

New Caledonia

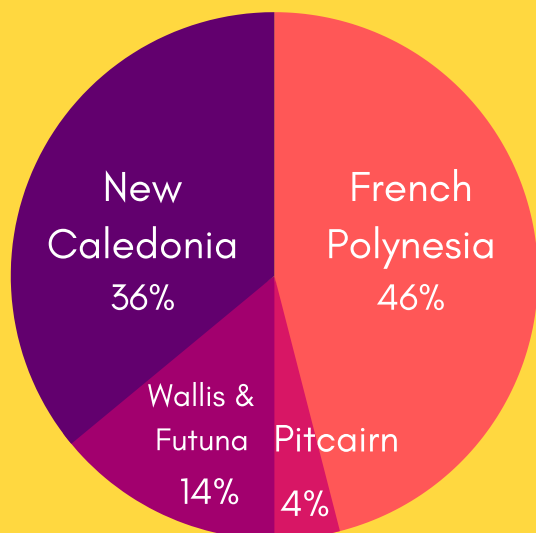
Wallis and Futuna

French Polynesia

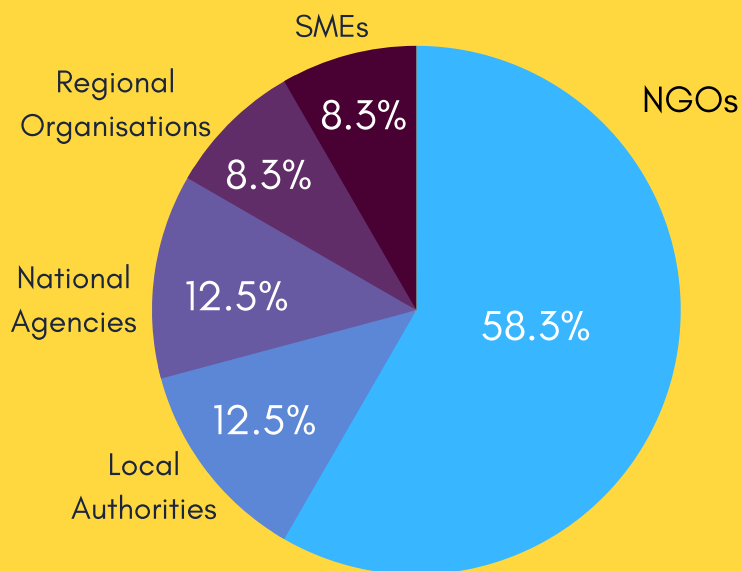
Pitcairn Islands

# OVERALL FIGURES

## Geographical Scope of Projects



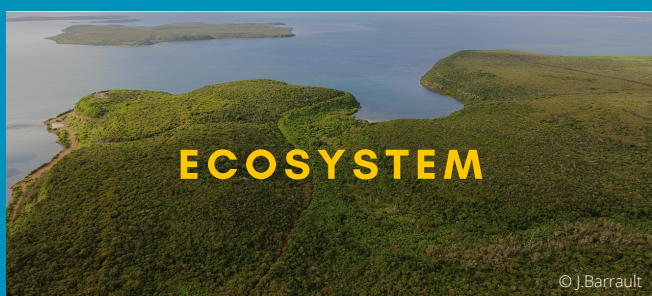
## Grant Beneficiaries



## PROJECT RESULTS

### CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY, SUSTAINABLE USE OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES, CLIMATE CHANGE

88% of the projects from 2015 to 2019 were dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.



- BEST projects contributed to enhanced conservation measures in **28,000 km<sup>2</sup>** of marine and coastal areas.
- Actions towards terrestrial Invasive Alien Species were carried out in **30 km<sup>2</sup>**.



- The inventory of **over 900 species** was updated.
- **20 new species** were assessed, including
- **1 new species described** for the first time, *Polyipnus laruei* in New Caledonia.
- **33 endangered species benefited** from protection measures, 97% being endemic.



- **38% of projects** contributed to climate change mitigation or adaptation.



# PROJECT RESULTS

## CAPACITY BUILDING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND VISIBILITY



- Over **600 people** were involved in project implementation.
- **81 people directly employed** thanks to the BEST grants.
- Around **300 education and awareness-building events** were organised.
- **786 individuals** were trained.



- Projects resulted in **over 100 publications** of which **42% are scientific or academic** reports.
- More than **400 interventions and mentions** in media and social networks for BEST grantees.



- **272 collaborations were initiated or strengthened** at the local, regional, and international level.
- **3 projects** led to the adoption of **new policy and legislative acts** in New Caledonia and Wallis & Futuna.
- All projects could **mobilise additional funding** to continue part of their activities once the BEST grants were completed.

## ABOUT BEST

BEST 2.0 is a programme financed by the European Commission (EC) – DG DEVCO, which continues the EU BEST Initiative as part of Biodiversity4Life.

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 Pacific 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, the BEST 2.0+ programme took over following the end of BEST 2.0 covering the OCTs.

To learn more, visit:

<https://www.best2plus.org>