

BEST

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

BEST IMPACT FACTSHEET

POLAR AND SUBPOLAR • 2015-2019



© Florian Ledoux

BEST IN THE POLAR AND SUBPOLAR REGION

STRENGTHENING LOCAL CONSERVATION

From 2015 to 2019, the BEST 2.0 programme supported field actions to empower and strengthen local stakeholders committed to local development, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services. 5 projects, worth close to € 900,000, were supported by BEST 2.0 in the region.

The French Southern and Antarctic Lands, Saint Pierre and Miquelon (France), Greenland (Denmark), South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (United Kingdom) benefitted from BEST 2.0 actions.



French Southern and Antarctic Lands



Saint Pierre and Miquelon



Greenland

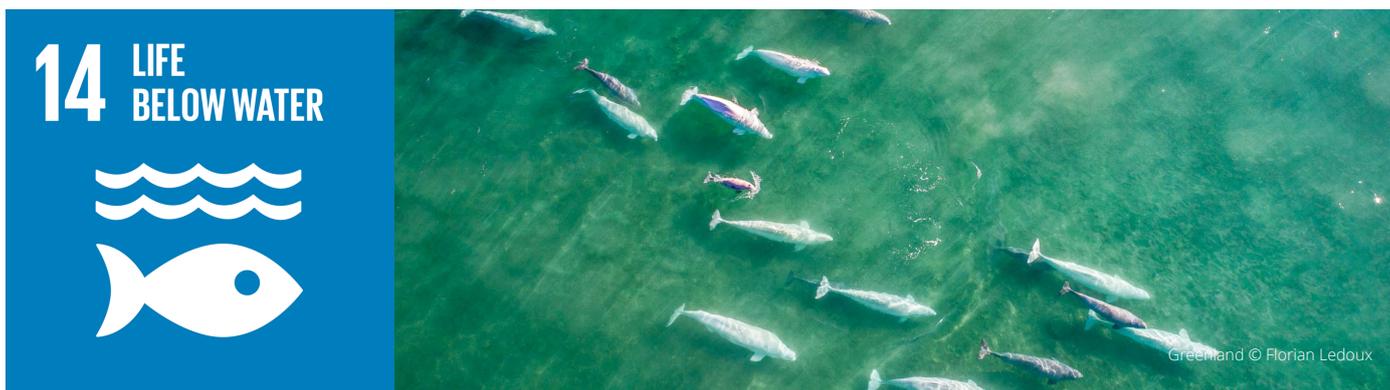


South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands

OVERALL FIGURES

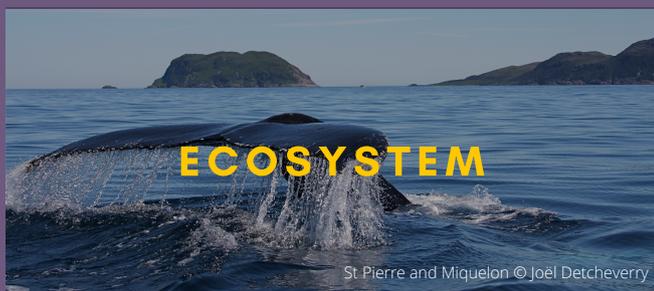
The BEST 2.0 projects in the region primarily focused on UN Sustainable Development Goal 14: "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development."

80% of projects were dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services and 20% on their sustainable use.



PROJECT RESULTS

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



- Immense marine areas were covered by the projects, including the **67 million hectares** of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands.
- **1 new Marine Protected Area** (MPA) of **1,900 km²** was created in Melville Bay, Greenland.



- **40 species were studied**, from birds to zooplankton and whales.



- **40% of the projects** contributed to climate change mitigation or adaptation.

PROJECT RESULTS

CAPACITY BUILDING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND VISIBILITY



- More than **130 public events** were organised, including cruise talks raising awareness of thousands of tourists every season.
- School interventions reached more than **2,000 children of 75 classes in 4 different countries**.
- A video game called *Tricky Trawling* was developed, to engage young people on sustainable fishery, with **3,000 players registered** so far.



- The projects resulted in **31 publications**.
- BEST grantees were involved in more than **20 media interventions**.
- Reached a wide audience on social networks with over **230,000 views on Twitter**.



- More than **30 collaborations were initiated or strengthened** at local, regional and international level.
- BEST initiative led to the **introduction of the precautionary principle** to future expansion of fishery in Greenland whereby the **fishing industry must seek government approval**.
- **80% of projects** extended their activities beyond the scope of BEST 2.0.

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 French Southern and Antarctic Land (TAAF) was a partner to BEST 2.0 for the polar region.



This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of IUCN and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

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/>