

BEST

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

BEST IMPACT FACTSHEET

SOUTH ATLANTIC • 2015-2019



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BEST IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

STRENGTHENING LOCAL CONSERVATION

The Overseas Countries and Territories of the South Atlantic region are composed of two UK Overseas Territories of four very distinct islands or islands groups reaching across the South Atlantic Ocean: Saint Helena, Ascension Island, and Tristan da Cunha (part of a single territory) as well as the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). They span a range of climatic systems and harbour differing ecosystems but are all vulnerable to invasive species, climate change and illegal fishing.

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. 6 projects, worth more than €600,000, were supported by BEST in the region.



Saint Helena



Ascension Island



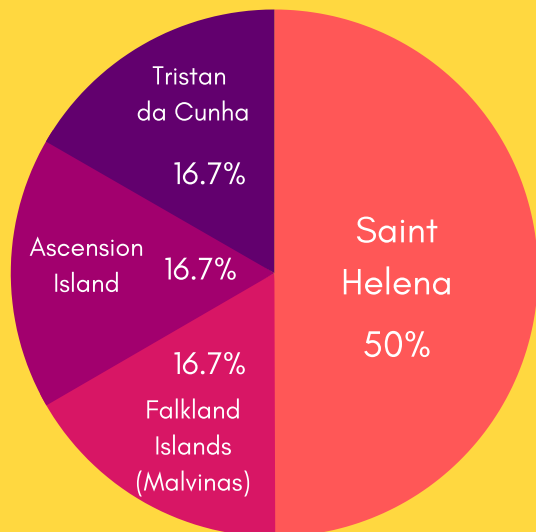
Tristan da Cunha



Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

OVERALL FIGURES

Geographical Scope of Projects



Grant Beneficiaries



BEST projects covered marine areas in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and Ascension, and terrestrial areas in St Helena and Tristan da Cunha.

PROJECT RESULTS

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

50% of the BEST beneficiaries developed practices on the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem services.



- Protection measures were enhanced for **8 endangered endemic species**, including through the establishment of nurseries.



- **571 km² of marine and coastal areas** benefited from a new assessment.
- BEST contributed to the **creation of the Marine Protected Area** of the entire Ascension Island Exclusive Economic Zone, covering **445,000 km²**.

PROJECT RESULTS

CAPACITY BUILDING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND VISIBILITY



- **4 jobs** were supported and **16 volunteers** involved.
- **80%** of employees and volunteers were **women**.



- **10 public events** across the region sensitised **4,400 people**.
- **29 publications and 40 interventions** in local media reached **3,500 people**.



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

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 South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) was a partner to BEST 2.0 for the South Atlantic 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>