



# The European Union and its Overseas Entities

Strategies in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss

Reunion Island, 07-11 July 2008

*An official event under the EU French Presidency*

*International conference organised by:  
IUCN - The International Union for Conservation of Nature  
French National Observatory on the Effects of Global Warming (ONERC)  
Regional Council of Reunion Island  
French Ministry of Internal Affairs and Overseas and Territorial Collectivities*

## DRAFT PROGRAMME (as of March 2008)

Preliminary document open for discussion by the Steering Committee

### Day 1 — Monday 07 July 2008

- 10:00 Registration desk opens**
- 11:00 Press conference**
- 14:00 Opening speeches (to be confirmed) (opening of the first part)**  
Facilitator: ...
- . Paul Vergès, President of ONERC and of the Regional Council of Reunion Island
  - . An Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) representative
  - . William Jackson, Deputy Director General, IUCN
  - . Jean-Louis Borloo, State Minister, Minister of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning, France
- 15:00 Session 1: Setting the stage: Islands and the European Union**  
Chair: ...
- 5' Introductory remarks
  - . Status and situation of Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs)
  - . Cooperation between Small Island Developing States (SIDS), ACP Countries and the European Union
  - . European policies in support of regional collaboration
  - . Opportunities to value the unique environmental assets of ORs and OCTs (IUCN)
  - . Discussion
- 16:00 15' Pause*
- 16:15 Session 2: Biodiversity overseas: global heritage, socio-economic and cultural importance, vulnerability and threats**  
Chair: ...
- 5' Introductory remarks
  - . Presentation of data and examples
  - . Discussion
- 17:15 Session 3: The impact of CO<sub>2</sub> and climate change on the physical and natural environment on islands**  
Chair: ...
- 5' Introductory remarks
  - . The reality of climate change and its physical consequences
  - . Impacts on terrestrial ecosystems
  - . Impacts on marine ecosystems
  - . Are we losing past investment in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation? (IUCN)
  - . Discussion
- 18:30 Return to hotels**
- 20:00 Departure from hotels
- 20:30 Reception hosted by the Regional Council of Reunion Island**

- 09:00 Session 4: Direct and indirect consequences of climate change and biodiversity loss for island people and economies**  
Chair: ...  
5' Introductory remarks  
. Impacts from extreme weather events  
. Impacts on agriculture and natural resources: fishing stocks, water resources, and the economic role of coral reefs  
. Biodiversity, climate change and tourism: interactions affecting islands  
. Discussion
- 10:15 Session 5: Adapting to the climate crisis: opportunities and limitations**  
Chair: ...  
5' Introductory remarks  
. The principal political and financial mechanisms available at the European and international level, their applicability to the ORs and OCTs and related challenges  
. Opportunities and limits of adaptation measures, and research needs  
. Examples: Adapting human infrastructure and water resource management  
. Discussion
- 11:15 30' *Pause*
- 11:45 Session 6: Protecting and managing ecosystems in the face of climate change**  
Chair: ...  
5' Introductory remarks  
. Managing mangroves, coral reefs and forests to favour resilience and reduce the vulnerability of islands  
. Prevention and eradication of alien invasive species  
. Enhancing protected area management and research, with budgetary implications  
. Adapting techniques in habitat and endemic species conservation  
. Discussion
- 13:00 Lunch on site**
- 14:00 Session 7: Energy production and use: European overseas entities and SIDS as role models**  
Chair: ...  
5' Introductory remarks  
. Island assets for renewable energies  
. Technological advances and exemplary current projects  
. Importance, cost and benefit of role model policies  
. Can the European Union support islands in achieving energy autonomy?  
. *Interactive plenary workshop: The Reunion 2030 Sustainable Development Programme: A critical debate on how to achieve energy autonomy*
- 16:00 30' *Pause*
- 16:30 Session 8: Mobilising overseas islands and the world to counter climate change and biodiversity loss**  
Chair: ...  
5' Introductory remarks  
. Two years after Mauritius: the degree of mobilisation amongst SIDS  
. After the Nuuk and Paris declarations, what role for overseas entities in European and global discussions?

- . Towards a joint global mobilisation of SIDS, ORs, OCTs and the European Union?
- . Discussion

**18:30 Return to hotels**

20:00 Departure from hotels

**20:30 Reception hosted by the General Council of Reunion Island (tbc)**

**Day 3 — Wednesday 09 July 2008**

**07:00 Field trip: Ecosystems of Reunion Island and challenges to the National Park**

07:00 . Departure from hotels to Bébour-Bélouve Forest (National Park of Reunion Island)  
Visit of the primary forest with guides of the National Park

12:00 . Inauguration of the National Park of Reunion Island by Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet,  
Secretary of State in charge of Ecology, France

12:30 . Lunch at the Plaine des Palmistes

**14:00 Session 9: Parallel workshops**

<b>Workshop 1</b>	<b>Workshop 2</b>	<b>Workshop 3</b>	<b>Workshop 4</b>
Chair:	Chair:	Chair:	Chair:
How to face the challenge of climate change adaptation, to enhance ecosystem resilience, and to reduce the vulnerability of human cultures and activities?	Economic valuation of ecosystems and sustainable funding for their conservation	Prevention, management and eradication of invasive alien species from islands	Role, difficulties and needs of civil society in the ORs and OCTs

**17:30 Return to hotels - evening at own leisure**

**Day 4 — Thursday 10 July 2008**

**09:00 Session 10: Parallel workshops**

<b>Workshop 5</b>	<b>Workshop 6</b>	<b>Workshop 7</b>	<b>Workshop 8 &amp; 9 (Marine Policy Day)</b>
Chair:	Chair:	Chair:	Chair:
How to reinforce regional cooperation on environmental issues?	How to achieve the energy revolution on islands?	What cooperation between ORs, OCTs, the EU member states and the European Commission with regard to habitats and species?	Combating illegal fishing
			Marine protected areas

**13:00 Lunch on site**

**14:30 Session 11: Parallel workshops**

Workshop 10	Workshop 11	Workshop 12	Workshop 13 & 14 (Marine Policy Day)
Chair:	Chair:	Chair:	Chair:
Towards a permanent working platform focused on the environmental challenges in ORs and OCTs?	Strategies promoting scientific research at the scale of the European overseas entities	What opportunities for a European ambition to address polar and subpolar environmental challenges?	Sea level rise, coastal erosion and atoll management
			Protecting threatened flagship species (sea mammals, sharks, sea turtles, seabirds)

**18:30 Return to hotels**

20:00 Departure from hotels

**20:30 Reception hosted by the hosted by the French Presidency of the European Union**

**Day 5 — Friday 11 July 2008**  
**Political synthesis**

**09:00 Opening speeches (opening of the second part)**

Facilitator: ...

09:00 15' A representative of the French government (to be confirmed)

09:15 15' Stavros Dimas, Commissioner for the Environment, European Commission (to be confirmed)

09:30 15' Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (to be confirmed)

09:45 15' Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity (confirmed)

10:00 15' Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman, Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (confirmed)

10:15 30' *Pause***10:45 Review of the issues dealt with during the conference****11:15 Wrap-up of the conference and workshop results**

Chair: ...

5' Introductory remarks

. Summary conclusions 1

. Summary conclusions 2

. Summary conclusions 3

**12:30 Lunch on site****13:30 Roundtable and plenary debate: what alliances between the European Union, ORs, OCTs and SIDS on climate change and biodiversity?**

A joint appeal about the vulnerability of island people to climate change and the solidarity amongst islands from the poles to the tropics

**15:00 Presentation and adoption of the declarations**

Chair: ...

- . Declaration of the States of the Indian Ocean Commission on their joint mobilisation against environmental threats
- . Joint declaration of ORs, OCTs and SIDS: an alliance of all islands on the global scene
- . Message of Reunion Island and Declaration of the French Presidency of the European Union

15:30 30' *Pause*

**16:00 Closing speeches (to be confirmed)**

Facilitator: ...

- 16:00 15' Paul Vergès, President, ONERC and Regional Council of Reunion Island
- 16:15 15' Head of Government of an EU Overseas Entity
- 16:30 15' A representative of a Small Island Developing State (AOSIS/SIDS)
- 16:45 15' Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General, IUCN
- 17:00 15' A representative of a European government
- 17:15 15' Michèle Alliot-Marie, Minister of Internal Affairs and Overseas and Territorial Collectivities, France

**18:00 Press conference**

**21:00 Closing party**

**Day 6 — Saturday 12 July 2008**

**Optional excursion to the south of the island and Piton de la Fournaise**

- 09:00 Departure from hotels
- 17:00 Return to hotels

or

**Optional workshops and meetings (self-organised)**