



BEST: A STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY FOR EUROPE OVERSEAS

Dominique Benzaken

Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable
Development

Brussels, 11 April 2011

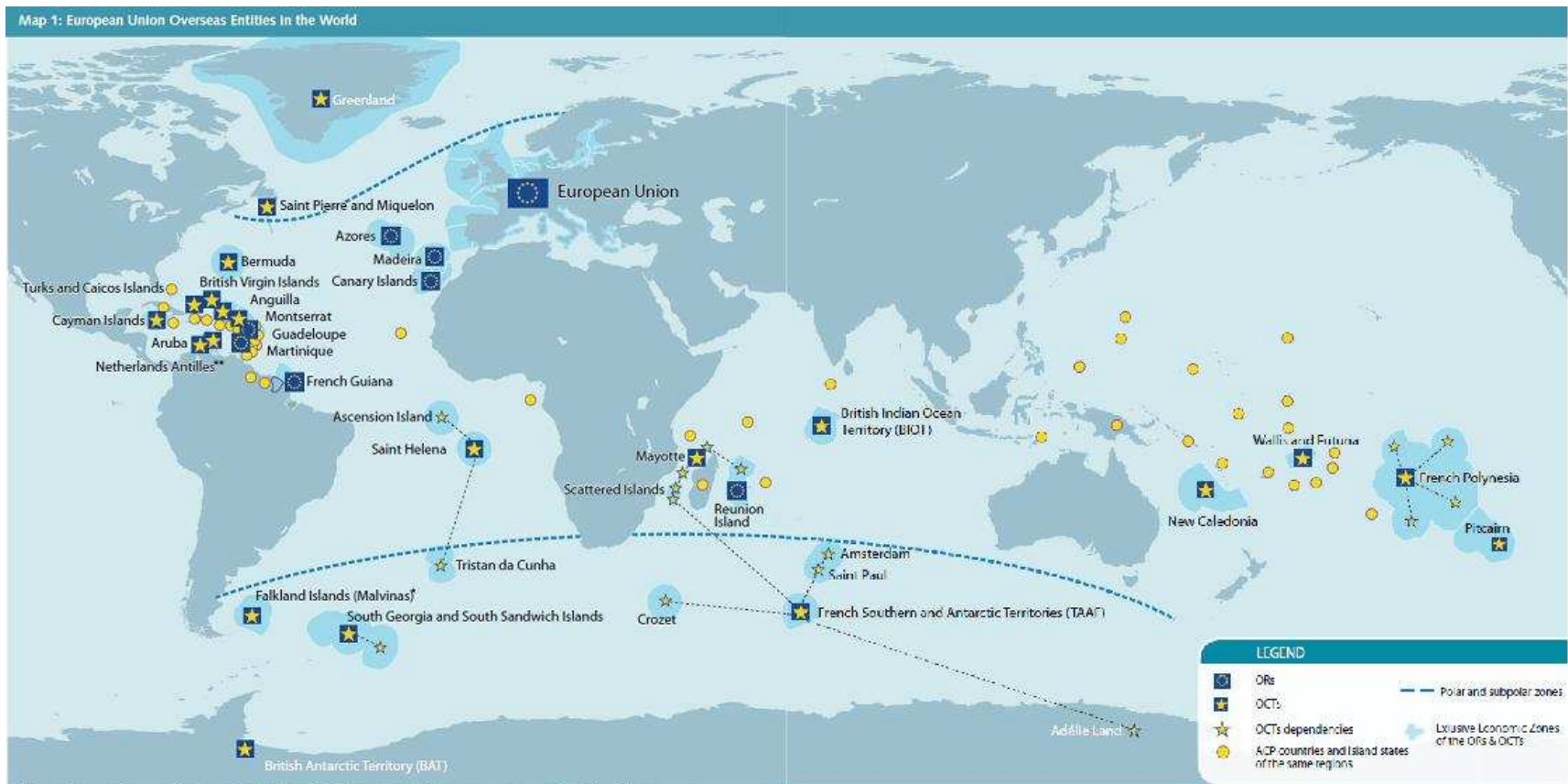
|



OUTLINE

1. EUROPE OVERSEAS AND GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY
2. IUCN REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD IN EUROPE OVERSEAS
3. EUROPE OVERSEAS: CHALLENGES
4. EUROPE OVERSEAS: OPPORTUNITIES
5. BEST: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FUTURE

EUROPE OVERSEAS AND GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY



* A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).
 ** Since October 2010 the Netherlands Antilles are disbanded, changing the constitutional status of Saba and St. Eustatius - Curaçao and St. Maarten have become autonomous states within the Netherlands; Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba are now autonomous special municipalities of the Netherlands.

Map from the IUCN publication on Climate Change and Biodiversity in the European Union Overseas Entities (2008)
 © IUCN

IUCN REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD IN EUROPE OVERSEAS

- All 6 EU Member States have developed a NBSAP;
- Not all refer to Europe overseas entities;
- Only 2 EU Member States have national strategies for overseas;
- Most of Europe overseas entities do not have local BAPs;
- Major gaps with potential areas of global biodiversity left without adequate policies and programmes.



IUCN REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD IN EUROPE OVERSEAS (2)

- Limited awareness of CBD as a global biodiversity instrument;
- Lack of biodiversity as priority and marginalisation of biodiversity in local development strategies;
- Limited technical and institutional capacity for developing BAPs (OCT);
- No dedicated biodiversity funding stream;
- Limited exposure to regional biodiversity planning processes;
- Despite constraints, significant biodiversity outcomes in particular in relation to protected areas.



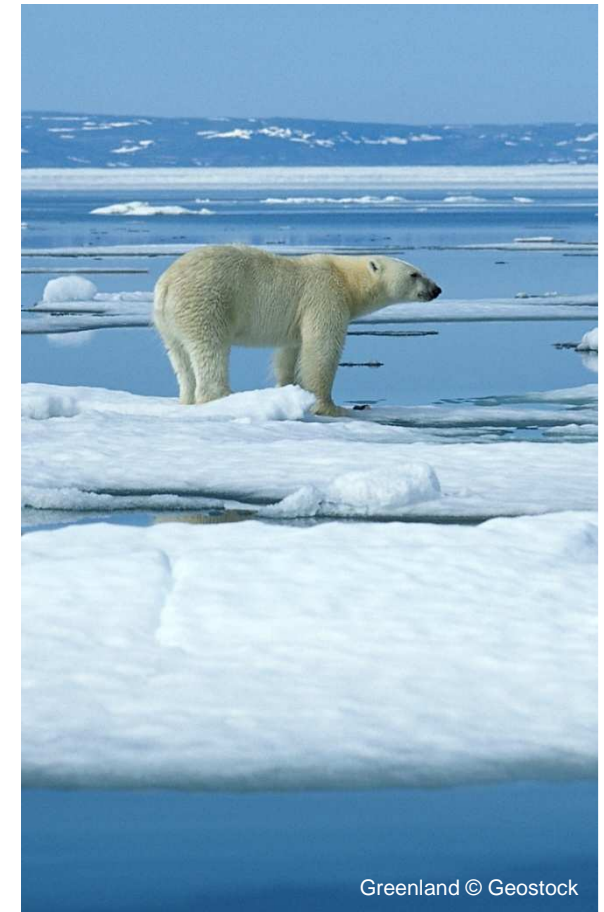
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REVIEW

- Shared responsibility of the CBD, EU, EU Member States, Europe overseas entities and civil society to meet CBD global commitments:
 - Increase local awareness of CBD obligations and guidance;
 - Effective Participation in global and regional policies and programmes;
 - Coherent and coordinated approach to
 - EU biodiversity policies and programmes and
 - a review of funding mechanisms;
 - Resources have to be commensurate to global significance of biodiversity.



EUROPE OVERSEAS: CHALLENGES

- Visibility and profile within EU, regionally, internationally;
- Complex governance arrangements (EU, national);
- A coherent and coordinated approach to EU policy and programmes:
- Integration in region of proximity;
- Sustainable financing mechanism.



EUROPE OVERSEAS: OPPORTUNITIES

- Conference of the Reunion Island (2008):
 - First meeting of all Europe overseas actors;
 - Message of the Reunion Island - proposals for action (BEST);
 - IUCN Europe overseas programme;
- New impetus under Europe 2020:
 - MoU France, Spain Portugal and Ors;
 - Revision of the OCT Association decision under way;
 - BEST;
- External drivers: EU leadership
 - CBD processes (Strategic Plan, review of NBSAPS and the Island biodiversity programme of work);
 - UNFCCC: Ecosystem based approaches to adaptation to climate change, EU leadership at Rio Convention.



Bermuda © M. Pienkowski

BEST: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FUTURE

- Preparatory action/MEP champions;
- Opportunity for a integrated and strategic approach to mainstream biodiversity and CC issues of EU overseas in EU policies and programmes;
- Broadly focused (CC);
- Inclusive (OR/OCT/civil society);
- Draw from Europe's lessons learnt (eg natura 2000) and regions of proximity
- Facilitate regional projects through complementary funding;
- .





CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Thanks to Mr Ponga and his colleagues in making this initiative possible;
- IUCN will work with the EC and partners to make this initiative a success:
 - NGO meeting (CI, Birdlife);
 - Europe overseas working group meeting.





THANK YOU

Dominique Benzaken

Programme Coordinator

EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories

dominique.benzaken@iucn.org

- Visit Europe overseas online: www.iucn.org/europe -> Europe overseas
- Participate on the IUCN's e-mail discussion group:
http://groups.google.com/group/europe_overseas_forum