



# ***The BEST Scheme***

Seminar of the EP InterGroup on Climate Change,  
Biodiversity and Sustainable Development

'Islands and Overseas Entities' Subgroup

11 April 2011

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# Following up the Message from Reunion Island:

- "Voluntary scheme for **B**iodiversity and **E**cosystem **S**ervices in **T**erritories of European Overseas"
- The **BEST** scheme

# Reference in policy documents

- Council Conclusions of 25 June 2009
- Commission Communication *"The outermost regions: an asset for Europe"*, COM(2008)642
- Commission Communication *"Elements for a new partnership between the EU and the overseas countries and territories"*, COM(2009)623
- EU BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (2006)
- EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY to 2020  
(forthcoming 2011)

# BEST objective

to promote **conservation** and **sustainable use** of biodiversity and ecosystem services in

*European overseas entities inspired by the experience with EU nature conservation*

- *reconcile environment and development*



# Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services



Photo: Ruedi Abbuehl, Falklands Conservation

# conservation through ...

- **Protected Areas**

- Designation
- Management

- **Reducing threats to biodiversity**

- Invasive species
- Over exploitation
- Pollution
- Habitat fragmentation, degradation and loss

- **Restoration**



# Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services



including climate change adaptation and mitigation

# sustainable use through...

- **Green infrastructure**

- *network of natural/semi-natural areas, features and/or green spaces in rural and urban areas which enhance ecosystem health and resilience, contributes to biodiversity conservation and benefits human populations through the maintenance, enhancement and restoration of ecosystem services*

- **Working with Nature**

- **Ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation**

- **other ...**



# What has been done ?

- Initial meeting in January 2009
  - (DG ENV, UK, FR, NL)
- Drafting of a “concept note”
- **Principles:**
  - Flexibility
  - Scientific underpinning
  - Commitment
  - Recognition of existing mechanisms and instruments
  - Balance between the conservation and development needs
  - Easy Access
- EP Proposal for Preparatory Action and press event on BEST in the margins of CBD COP 10 in Nagoya (EP, Commission, FR and UK) in October 2010

## Recent developments:

- **December 2010: Budget for Preparatory Action providing 2 million € to be committed for BEST adopted**
- **1 March 2011 Financing Decision adopted by the European Commission**
- [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/grants\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/grants_en.htm)

# Call for proposals

- Indicative Schedule :
  - Publication of the call for proposals : May 2011
  - Deadline for submission of proposals : September 2011
  - Launch projects : November/December 2011
- Applicants must be registered in an EU Member State or in an EU Overseas Country and Territory or be an International organisation.
- Partners from Third Countries are also eligible.



# Target beneficiaries are primarily

- public and private bodies in the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories,
- **site managers,**
- **research institutions,**
- non governmental organisations,
- **international organisations.**

involved in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development actions including also actions for climate change adaptation and mitigation

## **Projects may include:**

- **nature conservation measures including designation and management of nature conservation sites;**
- **measures which facilitate the cohabitation of biodiversity conservation and human activities;**
- **measures which contribute to the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services and maintain and develop social and sustainable economic activities which benefit local communities;**
- **development and use of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation and implementation of green infrastructure;**
- **networking, education and capacity building activities.**

# recall **BEST** objective

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# Objective of the call:

identify and finance a number of projects to

- showcase the potential multiple benefits of BEST
  - building on existing networks, encouraging new partnerships
- prepare for the establishment a governance structure for a durable implementation of BEST beyond the lifetime of the preparatory action

# Evaluation of proposals in 2 steps

- **Step 1: overall quality of the project:**
  - technical, financial coherence and methodology
- **Step 2: contribution to specific objective areas:**
  - **Conservation**
  - **Sustainable use**
  - **Climate change adaptation and mitigation**
  - **Building partnerships, education, communication**
  - **Foundation of a governance structure for durable implementation of BEST**

# summarising

- European overseas entities are an asset
  - Biodiversity and climate change are intrinsically linked
  - **BEST is a possible low input high output scheme with multiple benefits**
  - Idea is widely accepted
- 
- **Preparatory Action is very timely and provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate the value of BEST through real examples and prepare the ground for continuity**
  - **Need for strategic thinking, solidarity and collaboration**



Thank you for your attention



Photo: Ruedi Abbuehl, Falklands Conservation