



# Europe Overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change

Report of the second meeting

14 February 2012, DG REGIO, Brussels



Groupier In Cayman Islands ©  
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# Contents

Abbreviations	3
Introduction	4
<b>1. Action arising and progress report</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1. Participants' progress report and planned activities	5
1.2. Action arising	7
1.2.1. Revised Roundtable Terms of Reference	7
1.2.2. Communication	7
1.2.3. Outstanding actions	7
<b>2. Update on the Preparatory Action for BEST initiative</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1. Outcomes of the 2011 BEST Open Call for Proposals and the upcoming 2012 Call in the framework of the Preparatory Action of BEST	8
2.2. IUCN BEST project on Building Partnerships and Awareness on Biodiversity and Climate Change in Europe Overseas for the Future of BEST	9
2.3. Proposal of France for a workshop on Strategic priorities for biodiversity and climate change in Europe overseas	11
<b>3. Thematic Discussion on Europe Overseas and EU Marine Policies</b>	<b>13</b>
3.1. Overview of EU and international marine policies and the role of Europe overseas	13
3.2. Towards better integration of Europe overseas in EU marine policies: AAMP/IUCN Project on a review of overseas marine conservation efforts in a regional, EU and global context	14
<b>4. CBD In-depth Review(IDR) of the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work (IBPoW)</b>	<b>16</b>
4.1. Update on the CBD IBPoW, draft IDR report, preparation for SBSTTA-16 and COP 11: Plans for Europe overseas engagement	16
4.2. Opportunities of Europe overseas engagement in the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)	17
<b>5. Summary and next steps</b>	<b>19</b>
Appendix 1: Agenda of the second meeting of the Roundtable, 14 February 2012	20
Appendix 2: Participant organizations of the second meeting of the Roundtable, 14 February 2012	22

# Abbreviations

<b>AAMP</b>	Agence des aires marines protégées (French Marine Protected Areas Agency)
<b>ACP</b>	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
<b>AFD</b>	Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency)
<b>ATEN</b>	Atelier technique des espaces naturels (Technical Workshop on Natural Areas of France)
<b>BEST</b>	Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories
<b>BVI</b>	British Virgin Islands
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>CEPF</b>	Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund
<b>CI</b>	Conservation International
<b>DECC</b>	Department of Energy and Climate Change of the UK
<b>DEFRA</b>	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the UK
<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development of the UK
<b>DG</b>	Directorate General
<b>DG CLIMA</b>	European Commission DG for Climate Action
<b>DG DEVCO</b>	European Commission DG for Development Cooperation – EuropeAid
<b>DG ENV</b>	European Commission DG for Environment
<b>DG MARE</b>	European Commission DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
<b>DG REGIO</b>	European Commission DG for Regional Policy
<b>EbA</b>	Ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation
<b>EBCD</b>	European Bureau for Conservation and Development
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EEA</b>	European Environment Agency
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone
<b>EP</b>	European Parliament
<b>EP Intergroup</b>	European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>Europe overseas</b>	EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories
<b>FCO</b>	Foreign & Commonwealth Office of the UK
<b>GLISPA</b>	Global Island Partnership
<b>IAS</b>	Invasive Alien Species
<b>IBPoW</b>	CBD Island Biodiversity Programme of Work
<b>IDR</b>	In-depth Review
<b>IMP</b>	Integrated Maritime Policy
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation
<b>LIFE+</b>	Financial Instrument for the Environment of the EU
<b>MAFF</b>	Multi Annual Financial Perspectives
<b>MEP</b>	Member of the European Parliament
<b>NBSAP</b>	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
<b>OAD</b>	Overseas Association Decision of the EU
<b>OCT</b>	EU Overseas Country and Territory
<b>OCTA</b>	Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union Association
<b>OR</b>	EU Outermost Region
<b>Roundtable</b>	Europe Overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change
<b>RSPB</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
<b>SCBD</b>	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>TNC</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>UK</b>	United Kingdom
<b>UKOT</b>	Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom
<b>WCC</b>	IUCN World Conservation Congress
<b>WG</b>	Working group

# Introduction

The second meeting of the Europe Overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change (hereafter – Roundtable) took place on 14 February 2012 in Brussels at the European Commission (EC) Directorate General for Regional Policy (DG REGIO). The meeting was attended by representatives of European Union (EU) Member States, EU Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), European Commission, funding organisations and NGOs.<sup>1</sup>

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) welcomed participants and Ms Blanche-Emmanuelle Wiwane from MEP Maurice Ponga's office. Unfortunately Mr Ponga could not be present to welcome participants, due to prior commitments. IUCN thanked DG REGIO for the use of its facility for this meeting and expressed gratitude to the Government of France for its financial support to the IUCN EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories Programme<sup>2</sup>, under whose auspices this meeting has been convened.

The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate progress since the last meeting held in June/July 2011, plan for the work ahead in 2012, reflect on the theme of marine issues and agree on a joint way forward to address biodiversity and climate change issues in Europe overseas.<sup>3</sup>

The Roundtable also welcomed several new participants. The Government of the United Kingdom (represented to the second meeting by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) is looking to develop a climate change programme across all 14 UK Overseas territories (UKOTs), largely focusing on adaptation, is keen to hear more about ecosystem based approaches (EbA) and explore regional collaboration where possible. The UK is also exploring LIFE+ opportunities for OCTs which are currently not eligible and is keen to get feedback on why UK's proposals were not successful in the 2011 BEST Open Call for Proposals.

The government representatives of **Cayman Islands** (United Kingdom Overseas Territory, UKOT) highlighted the importance of biodiversity for their ecotourism development, the need to manage biodiversity assets and the threat of climate change.

**DG MARE** is interested in the development of an OCTs unit, while **DG REGIO** is keen to engage with the Roundtable, especially in the light of their programmes on biodiversity, climate change and forests in ORs.

**Agence Française de Développement (AFD – French Development Agency)**<sup>4</sup> is a “European investment bank” in France, which funds France and EU-wide development projects, including those on biodiversity and climate change. AFD has a mandate from the Government of France to promote action in the regions with French overseas territories and neighboring countries, is currently developing a strategy for the French overseas territories for next 3 years and is keen to integrate biodiversity and climate change.

**Atelier technique des espaces naturels (ATEN)**<sup>5</sup>, a public interest group created in 1997 upon the initiative of the Government of France, comprises 19 organizations responsible for nature management and protection of biodiversity in France (including its overseas territories). Since 2008, ATEN coordinates the TE ME UM (TErres et MEr UltraMarines) programme<sup>6</sup>, which aims to strengthen the capacity of 700+ managers of natural protected areas in French overseas, and is eager to link the initiative with the French National Biodiversity Strategy.

**The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)** is working on the development of projects and policy in the UK overseas territories (UKOT) and increasingly at the EC level, as well as looking into supporting the development of strong NGOs in overseas territories.

**The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** is running projects in 2 UKOTs - Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands (BVI), and is keen to exploring possibilities for engaging with French territories in the Caribbean region.

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<sup>1</sup> See the complete list of all participant organizations of this meeting in Appendix 2 of this report.

<sup>2</sup> See more about the Programme at <http://www.iucn.org/euoverseas>

<sup>3</sup> See the agenda of this meeting in Appendix 1 of this report.

<sup>4</sup> See more about AFD at <http://www.afd.fr/home>

<sup>5</sup> See more about ATEN at <http://www.espaces-naturels.fr>

<sup>6</sup> See more about the TE ME UM programme at <http://outremer.espaces-naturels.fr>

# 1. Action arising and progress report

## 1.1. Participants' progress report and planned activities

The participants shared information and views on the main trends and reported on the challenges and achievements in their work on biodiversity and climate change since the first Roundtable meeting held in 2011<sup>7</sup>. Significant progress was noted on a number of important fronts.

On the European Union (EU) level, collective efforts have resulted in the inclusion of the reference to the role of ORs and OCTs in the **Council of the EU** conclusions of 19 December 2011 on the Integrated Maritime Policy<sup>8</sup> and the reference to BEST in the Information note of 19 December 2011 of the Council of the EU on "The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020: Towards implementation - Council conclusions".<sup>9</sup>

In January 2012, prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> OCT-EU Forum, **the Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union Association (OCTA)**<sup>10</sup> organized its annual Ministerial Conference. The conference resulted in the signing of the Political Declaration that calls on the EU to, among other things, facilitate the participation of the EU Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) with meetings/seminars amongst OCTs, with the EC and with other relevant partners by informing them about the EU policies and strategies on biodiversity, environment, sustainable marine management, climate change, access to appropriate resources, and assistance in generating knowledge about the OCTs' unique biodiversity, the threats faced due to climate change as well as adaptation to these changes whilst being mindful of the long term objectives of the cooperation with the EC on environment and climate change.<sup>11</sup> The participants of the OCT-EU Forum agreed that environment, trade and regional integration will be key areas of cooperation between OCTs and the EU in the years to come<sup>12</sup> and Montserrat passed on to **Greenland** the rotating OCTA Chairmanship. During its Chairmanship, Greenland will focus on Green Growth, with the slogan 'How Cool is Green?' and sees the development of strategies on biodiversity important, but with main priority and focus on green growth in education, innovation and research.<sup>13</sup> Next OCT-EU Forum will be held in Greenland in end-September 2012.

In 2011, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) jointly with the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD), as the secretariat for the **European Parliament (EP) Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development** (hereafter, the EP Intergroup)<sup>14</sup>, organized two high-level events at the EP on BEST Preparatory Action<sup>15</sup> and on Islands and Overseas Territories' Contribution to Biodiversity and the Fight Against Climate Change<sup>16</sup>. Two high level events are scheduled on the preparation for the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including a session on the CBD Island Biodiversity Programme of Work (IBPoW), and a BEST follow-up later in 2012. A ministerial meeting on Europe overseas with the goal of enhancing EU commitments before the Island Summit during the CBD COP11 and the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 18) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is also considered. The EP Intergroup agenda for 2012 is flexible, open for new initiatives and provides an opportunity to initiate additional events.

<sup>7</sup> The first meeting report is available online at

[http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/report\\_europe\\_overseas\\_roundtable\\_meeting\\_nr1\\_2011www.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/report_europe_overseas_roundtable_meeting_nr1_2011www.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> The Council conclusion reads: "REITERATES the need to take into account the role and the importance of the outermost regions of the EU and interested associated overseas countries and territories in the development and implementation of IMP; ENCOURAGES the Commission and Member States to develop initiatives aimed at reinforcing the integration of maritime policies in outermost regions and interested overseas countries and territories, and INVITES the Commission to study how the outermost regions of the EU can contribute to EU's "Blue Growth" initiative", see at [http://91.194.202.11/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/trans/127046.pdf](http://91.194.202.11/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/trans/127046.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> The Council conclusion reads: "ENCOURAGES the Commission and Member States to continue promoting a common approach to nature conservation in the whole EU territory, including Member States' outermost regions and overseas territories which are home to several important global biodiversity hotspots; and WELCOMES, in this regard, the Commission's initiative on Biodiversity and Ecosystems in Overseas Territories (BEST)", see at <http://consilium.europa.eu/media/1379139/st18862.en11.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> More about OCTA at <http://www.octassociation.org>

<sup>11</sup> The full press release by OCT leaders on the outcomes of the OCTA Ministerial Conference and the key points of the Political Declaration can be found at <http://www.gov.ms/?p=6010>

<sup>12</sup> More information on the 10th OCT-EU Forum is available at [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news/overseas\\_countries\\_territories\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news/overseas_countries_territories_en.htm)

<sup>13</sup> See the Greenland's OCT Chairmanship Program and the Premier Kuupik Kleist's Incoming Chair Speech at <http://eu.nanog.gl/Emner/OCT/OCT%20Forums.aspx>

<sup>14</sup> More information about the Intergroup can be found at [http://ebcd.org/en/EP\\_Intergroup\\_CCBSD](http://ebcd.org/en/EP_Intergroup_CCBSD)

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/news\\_overseas/?7326/BEST](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/news_overseas/?7326/BEST)

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/?9277/Political-momentum-on-the-value-of-EU-islands-and-overseas-territories>

EBCD informed that **MEP Gabriel MATO ADROVER<sup>17</sup> from Canary Islands** has been appointed chair for the EP Committee of Fisheries. Furthermore, an **informal group of 10 MEPs** meets to discuss legislations impacting on Europe's overseas issues.

A radio programme on BEST<sup>18</sup>, organized by Conservation International (CI) Europe, has also been recorded at the European Parliament with the participation of MEP Maurice Ponga, Conservation International-Europe, EC and IUCN, being a good example of joint promotion of initiatives of common interest.

**A group of NGOs, including CI Europe, BirdLife Europe and RSPB**, has been advocating for the extension of the LIFE+ regulation on environment and climate change to Europe Overseas Countries and Territories.

On the national level, **the Government of the United Kingdom (UK)** has been working on a White Paper governing the UK's relationships with its overseas territories that is to be published soon. Led by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) in close collaboration with the Departments for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and International Development (DFID), the paper aims to outline the offer to British overseas territories across the various government departments and integrate all aspects of the government's policies on the overseas territories.

**FCO** is piloting environmental mainstreaming, a new approach to environmental management which entails integrating environment into the UK's government planning based on economic valuation of environmental assets. Pilot countries include Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands (BVI) and in the coming months, a number of workshops are planned to identify a range of priority actions that need to be taken forward to help secure a sustainable future for the islands, bringing together all stakeholders. Addressing geographical and regional differences between all territories though remains challenging.

On the local level, **Cayman Islands** shared a conservation success story of the Blue Iguana Recovery Programme<sup>19</sup>, a joint initiative with a number of partners to save the Grand Cayman Blue Iguana, an endemic species and the most endangered iguana on Earth, from the brink of extinction. Cayman Islands is also undertaking a major review of marine environment, a 3 year project funded by DEFRA's Darwin Initiative<sup>20</sup>, to comprehensively review its marine parks and ensure that, 25 years on, they are still optimally configured to protect Cayman's marine habitats and resources for future generations, including from the threat of climate change.<sup>21</sup>

**New Caledonia** developed a successful proposal for the 2011 BEST Open Call for Proposals, which showed good dynamics and triggered all stakeholders to come to one proposal on more systematic work on habitats.

**RSPB** with partners, implemented a ground-breaking rat eradication operation to restore Henderson Island<sup>22</sup>, a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site, with the final result as to whether all rats have been successfully removed to be known in 2013. In partnership with Anguilla, RSPB is starting a project on seabirds, has just received UK government funding within a framework of future work on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in all UK overseas territories and is carrying out a review of environmental governance in UK overseas territories as a gap analysis – frameworks for biodiversity, biosecurity and fisheries.

In the last 12 months, **AFD** has been implementing RESCUE, a new concept on water shed and lagoon restoration with a EUR 8-10 million budget, the ecosystem profile of New Caledonia as a key step in helping the government and provinces to target key conservation priorities systematically; ecosystem-based development for Martinique's tourism and activities on protected areas; ecosystem based adaptation strategies in Reunion Island supported through the IUCN-France Framework Agreement.

**IUCN** has released internationally<sup>23</sup> its report on the CBD implementation in Europe overseas entitled "Future Directions for Biodiversity Action in Europe Overseas", including its regional study<sup>24</sup>, and submitted the report as

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<sup>17</sup> [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96936/Gabriel\\_MATO%20ADROVER.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96936/Gabriel_MATO%20ADROVER.html)

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/?9267/best-in-Europe>

<sup>19</sup> More about the Blue Iguana Recovery Programme at <http://www.blueiguana.ky/>

<sup>20</sup> More about the Darwin Initiative at <http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.doe.ky/marine/25-years-of-marine-parks/>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/projects/details.aspx?id=tcn:9-241934>

<sup>23</sup> See the international release in English, French or Spanish at

[http://iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/news\\_overseas/?8534/Europes-overseas-territories-need-more-protection](http://iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/news_overseas/?8534/Europes-overseas-territories-need-more-protection)

<sup>24</sup> The report is available at

[http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/overseas\\_publications/cbd\\_implementation\\_euoverseas.cfm](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/overseas_publications/cbd_implementation_euoverseas.cfm)

a contribution to the CBD In-depth Review of the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work<sup>25</sup>. IUCN developed a proposal for the future of BEST which was successful. The profile of Europe overseas has also been raised at the EU and international levels through a number of events. IUCN has carried out a preliminary assessment and organized a side event together with the EC on “Ecosystem-based Adaptation in a Changing Climate: From Practice to Policy? Lessons learnt from islands” (December 2011, Rio Conventions Pavilion during UNFCCC COP 17, Durban)<sup>26</sup>, advised OCT leaders on EU-OCT cooperation on environment and climate change (January 2012, Brussels) and participated at the UNEP-led workshops on developing an EbA policy paper and decision framework (February 2012, Nairobi).

## 1.2. Action arising

### 1.2.1. Revised Roundtable Terms of Reference

Participants endorsed the revised Roundtable TORs, based the comments and recommendations of the last meeting, agreeing that the purpose of the Roundtable is to provide an EU-wide flexible and informal instrument for coordination, dialogue and exchange among all Europe overseas actors, including representatives of the ORs and OCTs, EU Member States, the EC, Intergovernmental organizations, civil society and experts.

The role of the Roundtable is to facilitate and advocate for appropriate consideration of ORs and OCTs biodiversity and climate change issues in EU, regional and international policies and programmes and to facilitate the mobilization of resources for EU overseas biodiversity and climate change.

The Roundtable aims to provide a balanced representation of all EU overseas actors and may establish thematic groups as relevant.<sup>27</sup>

### 1.2.2. Communication

In July 2011, IUCN convened the first Communications Working Group (WG) meeting, which mostly focused on drafting SWOT analysis, identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. By now, the analysis needs revision, considering latest developments, which could be incorporated in a planned communications strategy within the IUCN BEST project. The development of the strategy is planned in close collaboration with the Roundtable’s Communications WG.

The meeting agreed that the momentum is now and identified key opportunities for raising awareness in a short term – a number of events that have already taken place or upcoming.

A key communication challenge remains the diversity and geographical spread of Europe overseas and the engagement of the territories, hence there is a crucial need to establish communication network for overseas (identifying key focal points in the territories, key organizations), the need to align efforts and messages while retaining own mandates, engaging OCTs in OR Forum and vice-versa.

Following the recommendation of the last Roundtable meeting, IUCN established an informal online discussion group for BEST proposal development which remains active and can be used for the 2012 Call, if there is interest.

### 1.2.3 Outstanding actions

A number of actions are outstanding since the last meeting:

- Propose Roundtable ‘Declaration’ draft (one-page mission statement following GLISPA example);
- Letter to high-level decision makers in support to BEST;
- Mobilization WG meeting - mapping out strategy/roadmap;
- Bilateral meeting between IUCN and the European Environment Agency (EEA) to discuss future collaboration for Europe overseas.

Those actions are discussed in Session 2.

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/island/review.shtml>

<sup>26</sup> See the key messages, all presentations and a summary of the event at [http://iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/news\\_overseas/?8931/Working-with-nature-in-and-for-islands](http://iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/news_overseas/?8931/Working-with-nature-in-and-for-islands)

<sup>27</sup> The complete Roundtable TORs are available online at: [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/rt\\_revisedtors14022012\\_final.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/rt_revisedtors14022012_final.pdf)

## 2. Update on the Preparatory Action for BEST initiative

### 2.1. Outcomes of the 2011 BEST Open Call for Proposals and upcoming 2012 Call in the framework of the Preparatory Action of BEST (Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories)

Karin Zaunberger (European Commission DG ENV) presented<sup>28</sup> the outcomes of the 2011 BEST Open Call for Proposals<sup>29</sup> and next steps.

42 projects were received, representing a total cumulative cost of EUR 19,7 million (nearly 10 times more than available budget of EUR 2 million) and a strong demonstration of the interest, high demand and potential of such a scheme. 8 shortlisted proposals (9 grants) of the shortlisted applicants are from French ORs and OCTs, 1 from an international organization (the CBD Secretariat) and 1 intergovernmental organisation (IUCN). This mirrors that the French community was most active and effective in the preparation for BEST. The proposals from UK, Portugal, Denmark and the Netherlands remain high on the reserve list. Only the Spanish proposals showed too little understanding of the rationale of the preparatory action. This means, if the budget of BEST 2011 had been higher – for instance, EUR 4 million instead of EUR 2 million, the shortlist would have included applications from all OR/OCT Member States. 9 proposals were selected:

6 “on the ground”:

- the creation of protected areas in the public forests of La Réunion and Mayotte;
- the quantification of ecosystem services of marine protected areas in the Caribbean with a view to their payment (Martinique);
- the quantification of ecosystem services associated with agro-ecosystems (Martinique);
- the development of a network of sustainable management of protection areas and concrete actions for the protection and the recovery of endangered birds (French Polynesia);
- the tracking of *Pecaris à lèvres blanches*, an endemic indicator species, in the Guyana National Park with a view to a long term project;
- the rational management of natural areas to strengthen a coherent network of sites to meet the conservation and biodiversity challenges of New Caledonia.

2 awareness raising, networking:

- Building partnerships and awareness of biodiversity and climate change in Europe overseas for the future of BEST through targeted communications and awareness raising events at the EU and international levels;
- Building capacity and mobilization of stakeholders to implement activities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the face of increasing threats from climate change while achieving co-benefits for climate change mitigation and adaptation;

1 policy tool:

- CORAIL: to provide a set of methods to evaluate ecosystem services delivered by coral reefs in French Polynesia and New Caledonia.

The EP has adopted a prolongation of the preparatory action BEST in 2012. The budget available is EUR 2 million. In order to implement the preparatory action, the 2012 BEST Open Call for Proposals<sup>30</sup> has been launched and the deadline for submission of proposals is 1 June 2012, 17h Brussels time. Proposals submitted to the 2011 Call can be re-submitted.

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<sup>28</sup> The full presentation of DG ENV is available online at [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/1\\_best2011results\\_rt1402\\_dg\\_env.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/1_best2011results_rt1402_dg_env.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> More information on the 2011 BEST Open Call for Proposals can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/comm2006/2020.htm#best>

<sup>30</sup> More information on the 2012 BEST Work Programme and the Open Call for Proposals is available on [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/grants\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/grants_en.htm)

In conclusion, BEST is making good progress and gaining visibility within ORs and OCTs. The preparatory Action on BEST has support from the European Parliament, European Commission Services and Member States. The Preparatory Action for BEST is referenced in the EU Environmental Council Conclusions of December 2011 and other Policy Documents. BEST has a great potential to contribute to several policy objectives and actors should make the most of the BEST “facilitating project” implemented by IUCN.

## **Discussion**

UK supports the BEST initiative and remains hopeful and encouraging as to its future. However UK is disappointed that most of the projects selected were situated in French territories, stressing the lesser capacity of UKOTs. EC pointed out that less bids were received from the UK and they were not ranked as high against the evaluation criteria. The approach of Conseil Régional de Martinique to consider outcomes of the BEST projects for a future biodiversity strategy was viewed as a potentially good approach that others may follow

Further discussion on the future of BEST has been combined and presented at the end of Session 2.

## **2.2. IUCN BEST project on Building Partnerships and Awareness on Biodiversity and Climate Change in Europe Overseas for the Future of BEST**

Dominique Benzaken (IUCN Europe) presented<sup>31</sup> the IUCN BEST project<sup>32</sup>.

The project is coordinated by IUCN and is implemented in partnership with EBCD and with the support of CI Europe, OCTA, SCBD and CEPF. The project is expected to take 2 years to complete and the objectives are:

- To strengthen EU level partnership mechanisms, information sharing and to provide a networking mechanism for coordinated and informed action on Europe overseas, building on existing initiatives;
- To develop proposals for the sustainability of a BEST initiative, based on initial guidance on the Roundtable, and informed by expert advice on innovative solutions for governance and financial mechanisms;
- To raise awareness and mobilize support for Europe overseas biodiversity and climate change at regional, EU and international levels, showcasing BEST and other Europe overseas initiatives on biodiversity and climate change

The EC BEST funding will support IUCN established mechanisms for information sharing and dialogue between EU overseas, including the Roundtable, the web based Europe Overseas Forum and the dedicated IUCN website on Europe overseas, as well as communication and mobilizing activities with EU and international institutions in support of EU overseas and BEST.

Importantly, those mechanisms will facilitate the development of proposals for the future of BEST in consultation with EU overseas actors through the Roundtable and its networks, EC, OR, OCT fora and informed by external expert review of governance and financial mechanisms. A final conference on Europe overseas biodiversity and climate change at the European Parliament (November/December 2013) will close the project.

The Roundtable is a key component in the project. Two meetings are planned per year with informal thematic groups to progress specific issues. IUCN invited the Roundtable participants to nominate to work on the future of BEST. Tasks envisaged includes developing TORs for the external review, preparation of key documents (scoping paper, development of options, business case), meeting attendance, teleconferences, consultation with networks.

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<sup>31</sup> The full presentation can be found at [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/2\\_bestproject\\_rt1402\\_iucn.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/2_bestproject_rt1402_iucn.pdf).

<sup>32</sup> A summary of the proposal outlining key activities, outcomes and milestones can be found at [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn\\_best\\_project\\_summary\\_rt140212.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn_best_project_summary_rt140212.pdf)

## **Discussion on the future of BEST**

Participants agreed that a strategic approach to the future of BEST was critical and it was noted that so far, there has not been enough or concerted lobbying with key EU institutions in support of BEST, since the last Roundtable meeting.

The efforts of Birdlife, CI, LPO and RSBP in engaging with Permanent representations, MEPs, Commissioners and EC staff were supported. In addition, EBCD, IUCN and DG ENV have engaged the EP on the future of BEST and IUCN did suggest amendments in the MEP Gerbrandy's and Jo Leinen's reports on the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Environmental Action Plan. However, much remains to be done and a better coordination is needed to maximise impact.

**Reconciling the timelines is the most important** issue right now. URGENT ACTION is needed to position and to leverage political support for BEST in the discussions of Multi Annual Financial Perspectives (MAFF), as well as developing robust technical advice to progress key issues for the future of BEST. Current budget discussions on MAFF make little reference to BEST (e.g., Cohesion policy, Common Fisheries Policy). IUCN BEST project will facilitate the development of options for the future of BEST, however given the timing of MAFF discussions, a two-track approach operating simultaneously is needed:

- One tactical and reactive focusing on the current MAFF and other policy discussions;
- One strategic and using the IUCN "facilitation project" with an in-depth analysis of options for the future of BEST to substantiate proposals for governance and financial mechanisms for a BEST scheme.

It was recognized that to be successful, a BEST scheme beyond the preparatory action, requires high-level political support from the EU Member States and other actors, as well as from within the EC itself, in particular DG REGIO, DG DEVCO and DG CLIMA.

Over the next 6 months, a roadmap of key political discussions and negotiations to effectively target action is needed which would:

- **Identify some of the key discussions** to take place in key DGs, EU Member States, overseas territories, international NGOs, EP and other EU institutions, private sector. Upcoming EC meeting with the EU Member States on the future of BEST can be the first of such events (March 2012);
- **Target 2-3 key discussions** about the specific difficulties and ensure each time high-level political responses on possibilities and difficulties so that in 3 months, we know where we stand. Same goes with EP and EU Council. Political leverage could include:
  - Encouraging EU Member States ministers to write to the EC and make official endorsement of BEST;
  - Proposing questions which MEPs can put forward for the continuation of BEST in Parliament and;
  - MEPs organizing EP events and meetings with Commissioners and at the EP on the continuation of BEST;
  - Engaging EU Council through EU Member States and other means on the future of BEST;
- **Encourage better policy and programme coherence** within EU institutions between the 3 DG DEVCO, DG ENV and DG REGIO. BEST offers an opportunity to establish a coherent strategic framework for DG REGIO and DG DEVCO investment in EU Overseas biodiversity and climate change. The EC planning meetings with Member States about BEST (End-March 2012) will focus on the outcomes of the BEST 2011 call but also the durability of the scheme and bring the various EC DGs together.
- **Identify actions/constraints** in relation to spending DG DEVCO and DG REGIO funds, noting that significant funds committed have not been spent in the current period. Outermost regions get very little overall. Under current cohesion policy the amount which is targeted to renewable energy/energy efficiency is a very small amount; it could be decided that that money is spent on biodiversity. It is critical to encourage EU MS and their local authorities to come up with proposals that can be supported by cohesion and other European and have MEPs support.
- **Investigate legal constraints** related to OCTs status *vis-a-vis* EU make them ineligible to LIFE+ biodiversity fund and the impact of the revised OAD to be released in March 2012. LIFE+ discussions will commence soon, this will provide an opportunity for OCTs.
- **Propose mechanisms for leveraging** bilateral and private sector funding into a BEST fund? What legal and governance mechanisms would be required to allow a flexible BEST Scheme meeting the needs of its beneficiaries? The IUCN project will propose answers those questions.

Strengthening and/or establishing strategic relationships with key actors was identified as a key priority.

For example, it was noted that MEPs are interested in becoming more involved and the Roundtable can be a mechanism to activate and mobilize them. The participants underlined the importance of further working with the EP, especially for the future of BEST.

In addition, the participants flagged an opportunity of reinforcing cooperation between OCTs, ORs, ACP countries and the Caribbean as the next **EU-ACP Assembly** (possibly November 2012) will be held in Suriname, which borders French Guiana (Guiana Shield Area). Hence there is huge potential for cooperation with adequate support from the EU.

#### **Agreement**

The following Roundtable members agreed to work on a roadmap and a mobilizing strategy over the next 6-12 months (key milestone/events, target groups, action needed, lead):

- AFD (comments only), Birdlife, OCTA, RSPB, in addition to Conservation International (Europe), DEFRA, EBCD, EEA, IUCN and UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF) that were nominated from the last Roundtable meeting.

#### **Action**

- IUCN to convene a mobilization meeting to facilitate the development of the roadmap and better coordination of mobilization efforts and IUCN to report on progress at the next Roundtable meeting;  
- DG ENV to report on the outcomes of the EC-EU Member States' meeting scheduled for March 2012;

### **2.3. Proposal for a workshop on Strategic priorities for biodiversity and climate change in Europe overseas**

Pascal Colin from the French Ministry of Overseas presented<sup>33</sup> a proposal for an EU-level strategic workshop, building on the recommendations of the Message from Reunion Island (2008) and taking into account new EC/EP developments including the Preparatory Action for BEST.

He recalled that the Conference on "EU and Its Overseas: Strategies Counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss" (Reunion Island, 2008)<sup>34</sup> resulted in 60 recommendations<sup>35</sup> but didn't define strategic objectives at the European level to guide decision makers at all operational levels.

The new proposal calls for necessity to definite and to adopt a strategic (and operational) framework for the action during the period 2013-2020 and proposes to organize a two-day technical and expert workshop in September/October 2012 for the adoption of this strategic and operational framework. The results could be officially presented in September 2012 during an event in the European Parliament (by MEPs like Mr. Ponga or eventually a ministerial segment).

Proposed approach includes the formation of a Steering Committee (10 to 15 people) comprised of experts, NGOs, civil society, local and national authorities, EC and others as appropriate. Members of the Roundtable interested in participating and/or collaborating with the committee are welcome. The Roundtable will have the opportunity to review the proposal, including an informal discussion paper to inform workshop deliberations.

#### **Discussion and expression of interest**

The proposal was well received and supported by the Roundtable participants. Main comments included that a strategic workshop should facilitate the integration of ORs and OCTs around common priorities. The participants also noted that it would be useful to define strategic priorities to guide investment in Europe overseas, facilitate

<sup>33</sup> Presentation online at [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/3\\_proposal\\_strategic\\_workshop\\_rt1402\\_mom.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/3_proposal_strategic_workshop_rt1402_mom.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.reunion2008.eu/>

<sup>35</sup> [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/080711\\_reunion\\_msg\\_en\\_1.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/080711_reunion_msg_en_1.pdf)

effectiveness and reporting and complement the IUCN 'facilitating project' on the future of BEST. A strategic framework should eventually lead to operational and sustainable financing mechanisms.

**Agreement**

The following Roundtable members agreed to be engaged in the project and the proposed steering committee

- AFD, ATEN, Cayman islands, CI Europe, DG ENV, DG MARE, EBCD, FCO, IUCN, IUCN French National Committee, RSPB;
- Greenland to consult with the OCTA Executive Committee and come back.

**Action**

- IUCN to liaise with France Ministry of Overseas territories on the next steps and advise the Roundtable members.

## 3. Thematic Discussion on Europe Overseas and EU Marine Policies

### 3.1. Overview of EU and international marine policies and the role of Europe overseas

Rafaël Deroo (DG MARE) gave a presentation<sup>36</sup> on the EU marine policies and programmes and the role of Europe overseas.

**The Marine Strategy Framework Directive** foresees regional collaboration as an obligation for EU Member States, addresses the need for more knowledge of the seas ("Marine Knowledge") and requires cooperation within and across marine regions to enhance coherence and consistency. This is further needed to take forward the broader coordination called for by the UN Regular Process on reporting and assessment of the marine environment. A complete seabed map should be available by 2020, including Europe overseas.

**The EU's Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)** seeks to provide a more coherent approach to maritime issues, with increased coordination between different policy areas. It focuses on the issues that do not fall under a single sector-based policy e.g. "blue growth" (economic growth based on different maritime sectors), issues that require the coordination of different sectors and actors such as marine knowledge. Specifically it covers the following cross-cutting policies: marine data and knowledge, integrated maritime surveillance, maritime spatial planning, blue growth, and sea basin strategies. Seas and oceans have a huge economic potential in renewable energy, food, minerals, pharmaceuticals, biodiversity. The IMP seeks to coordinate, not to replace policies on specific maritime sectors.<sup>37</sup>

**Sea basin strategies** key focus is blue growth, climate change, fisheries, protection of the marine environment, safer sea. They aim to coordinate and prioritize existing efforts into a medium-long term strategy with clear priorities and objectives & identify and tackle possible gaps. Their main purpose is to unblock key issues and larger regional challenges, better implement significant existing EU and other policies, foster an integrated approach to policy delivery (eg territorial/maritime cohesion) and promote better alignment of funds necessary to implement Europe 2020.

**The Atlantic Forum and the Atlantic Strategy** will identify and propose priority actions and projects for future funding so as to create sustainable jobs and growth in the Atlantic area. **The Atlantic Strategy** outlines the challenges of the Atlantic region – is implementing an ecosystem approach to resource use to reduce Europe's carbon footprint, exploit seafloor resources in a sustainable way. The strategy also addresses risks and emergencies and promotes socially inclusive growth. The Strategy requires engagement from all five states with an Atlantic coastline (France, UK, Ireland, Portugal and Spain). **The Atlantic Forum** is established to implement the Atlantic strategy. The Forum work programme for 2012 includes gathering ideas for concrete actions, through a series of conferences for regional and local stakeholders; reviewing and agreeing on priority actions and projects resulting in the publication of an Action Plan. This Action Plan will be proposed for funding under the different EU instruments in the period 2014-2020..<sup>38</sup>

**ORs** have the same surface as the Black Sea and the Mediterranean combined and are ideal observatories for space, biotechnology, climate change adaptation measures and environmental and marine research (Blue/marine economy). More support is necessary for the development of marine economy in OR through established 'earmarking' in the new structural funds and HORIZON 2020 - taking up proposals for marine issues to be addressed in future regulations. An example is French blue growth strategy "*Livre bleu l'Océan indien*"<sup>39</sup>.

EU has dedicated funds for developments of ORs and OCTs. A major factor for growth is regional collaboration, hence there is need for developing cooperation among OCTs and ORs. Financial Framework 2014 – 2020, Common Strategic Framework, Horizon 2020, Solbes Report on internal market are opportunities for progressing a blue economy.

<sup>36</sup> A copy of the full presentation can be found at [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/4\\_eumarinepolicies\\_rt1402\\_dg\\_mare.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/4_eumarinepolicies_rt1402_dg_mare.pdf)

<sup>37</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/index_en.htm)

<sup>38</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/sea\\_basins/atlantic\\_ocean/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/sea_basins/atlantic_ocean/index_en.htm)

<sup>39</sup> <http://80.69.213.183/livrebleu/>

DG MARE is not a funding DG, however, there is potential for the Atlantic area which includes ORs and OCTs and DG MARE will try to give ORs and OCTs a platform and/or additional means to present their “smart specialization”; and encourage investing a share of their structural funds on “blue growth”. This also applied to local authorities.

To facilitate this, it is important to integrate OR/OCT into EU Member States’ national planning for 2014-2020 – action needed NOW, otherwise almost too late and consider a regional approach that can work (an example of “*Livre Bleu de l’Océan Indien*”).

### **Discussion**

The meeting welcomed the presentation of DG MARE as marine issues are critical to Europe overseas.

The marine environment has a huge potential for marine genetic resources. What will be the role of the CBD ABS protocol on the sustainable and equitable exploitation of those resources). Is there a marine/maritime culture – what’s happening on the local level?

How is the IMP and DG MARE addressing regional collaboration since regional cooperation is one of the top priorities of donors like AFD? DG MARE key areas for regional collaboration are marine knowledge and marine spatial planning processes, with EU Member States as key partners. There is no plan at the moment for a more global approach. DG MARE however, is open for collaboration with institutions pursuing similar goals and building local capacity (“bottom-up” not “top-down”). IMP is just a couple of years old and so far has no seed money. The priority is the seabed mapping – everyone who has expertise is invited to contribute.

DG MARE manages the Maritime Forum, an online collaborative platform (intranet) between different stakeholders. Possible opportunities to link in with the Europe Overseas Forum were briefly raised.

### **Action**

- Given that further exchange is needed on how best to integrate Europe overseas interests in the EC marine and maritime policies, IUCN and DG MARE to set up bilateral meeting to consider options
- IUCN and DG MARE to discuss options to link their respective forums.

## 3.2. Towards better integration of Europe overseas in EU marine policies: AAMP/IUCN Project on a review of overseas marine conservation efforts in a regional, EU and global context

Dominique Benzaken (IUCN) presented<sup>40</sup> this item on behalf of IUCN and AAMP (Carole Martinez, AAMP, France).

EU EEZs cover 25 million km<sup>2</sup>, which is the largest marine area in the world and with France alone being the second EEZ with over 11 million km<sup>2</sup>. Out of these 25 million km<sup>2</sup>, ORs and OCTs combined EEZ make up 15.106.472 km<sup>2</sup>, 85 times continental EU (EEA); 18,4% managed by EU of total world, e.g. French Polynesia’s EEZ larger than Europe’s continental. EU key player in global and regional ocean governance, given that less than 1% of oceans protected globally and MPA represent only 2% of EEZs.

EU derives substantial economic benefits for its large marine domain including: access to fisheries grounds when EU continental depleted, marine genetic resources, mineral exploration, Antarctic and Arctic, a foothold in the high seas in all 3 oceans (strategic).

<sup>40</sup> A copy of the full presentation is available at [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/5\\_aamp\\_iucnmarine\\_proposal\\_rt1402\\_db.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/5_aamp_iucnmarine_proposal_rt1402_db.pdf)

Opportunities and challenges for marine conservation in Europe overseas territories include their location in biodiversity hotspots, their economic dependence on marine and coastal ecosystem services, and their vulnerability to human impacts and climate change. Challenges for marine conservation and EU overseas is the complex shared competence and jurisdiction on marine matters at the EU, EU MS, overseas territories levels, and yet the need for a regional integrated approach given the nature of the marine environment.

IUCN and AAMP are collaborating on a review of EU overseas marine conservation and resource management at the EU, EU Member States and territory in a regional and global context. The review proposed terms of reference are to:

- Identify key issues, priorities and actors in Europe overseas marine resource management and the protection of marine ecosystems;
- Update/collate information/data on conservation efforts and marine resource management; Analyse existing projects, programmes and policies for marine resource management and the protection of marine ecosystems undertaken by EU Member States in Europe overseas and identify gaps and best practice initiatives;
- Prepare marine basins/Regional Seas Convention synthesis of findings and identify opportunities for regional cooperation;
- Review existing EU marine policies and programmes and application to Europe overseas issues and priorities (Reunion recommendations); Identify options for better integration of Europe overseas conservation activities in existing EU programmes and promoting integrated marine resource management;
- Determine value added of EU policies and programmes to existing international/regional policies and programmes;
- Propose recommendations and scope proposals for future collaborative activities.

The review will inform EU international and regional marine policies and will provide input into an IUCN international workshop on the EU and EU overseas and regional seas and will be presented at the 3rd International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC 3) to be held in Marseilles in 2013.

IUCN/AAMP are seeking feedback on the proposal and are invite the contribution of RT members in its implementation and more specifically how they can facilitate consultation and data gathering.

### **Discussion and expression of interest**

The Roundtable members supported the proposal as an important and needed work. Main comments focused on:

- The need to take account of existing and related marine initiatives undertaken internationally such as with the CBD, FAO and EBCD, the upcoming IMPAC3, IUCN programme on the identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs). Consultation with regions would also be needed and is planned. The results of the review would be a good topic for IMPAC 3. EBCD is keen to contribute.
- The proposal is broad and ambitious in scope and a very strategic way to look at opportunities. While this overview is needed, there are areas where the way forward is already clear, so it might be useful to identify 2-3 very practical marine conservation issues to tackle and move from there. For example, EU Member States have committed to 10% protected areas in EU (2,5 million km<sup>2</sup>) which would require approximately EUR 250 million annually. We should help EU Member States to target key practical themes they can work on to implement those commitments as maybe they are good at strategies but not sure how to do it. AFD can help target 2-3 specific directions.

### **Action/agreement**

- EBCD to advise the Roundtable on the CBD, FAO and EBCD project;
- AFD to propose 3 key themes to focus the review;
- IUCN and AAMP to invite interested Roundtable members to provide further comments and help identify key contacts at EU, EU Member States and local/regional level to assist in the implementation of the review.

## 4. CBD In-depth Review of the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work

### 4.1. Update on the CBD island biodiversity programme of work, draft IDR report, preparation for SBSTTA-16 and COP 11: Plans for Europe overseas engagement

Dominique Benzaken (IUCN) gave a short update on the In-Depth Review (IDR) of the CBD Island Biodiversity Programme of Work (IBPoW), on behalf of the Secretariat of the CBD.<sup>41</sup>

The objectives of IDR are to assess the global status and trends on island biodiversity; progress in achieving goals and targets of the IBPoW since 2006 (reflected in CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan); identify challenges and priorities for capacity-building; facilitate new commitments and projects; and review, update and (possibly) expand the IBPOW.

The Roadmap to CBD COP 11 when the IDR will be presented to Parties for their consideration includes the following milestones:

- Development of a 16-page pre-session paper (Ana Tira'a and Jacqueline Evans, contributions and 4NRs);
- Draft IDR for comments (20 February 2012);
- Preparatory meetings and workshops (Web consultation, Caribbean, Pacific National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) review workshops);
- The 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-16) side event on IBPoW and a poster session on Oceans, Coasts and Islands: Achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (April – May 2012);
- Rio Conventions Pavilion at Rio+20 to deliver the message on blue economy testing ground (June 2012);
- IUCN World Conservation Congress, which will include a number of island events and motions (September 2012);
- The CBD COP 11 in Hyderabad and the Islands Summit (October 2012).

Europe overseas engagement includes:

- IUCN Submission to IDR of the report on *Future Directions for Biodiversity Action in Europe Overseas: Outcomes of the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, December 2010*<sup>42</sup> and comments on draft IDR (February 2012);
- CBD SBSTTA-16 meeting (April-May 2012): IUCN will participate in a side event on IBPOW organized by the SCBD and GLISPA; IUCN responded to the CBD Call for Poster on Oceans, Coasts, Islands: Achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (contributions from RT members?); Will there be any Engagement of EU overseas in Parties' delegations at SBSTTA or COP 11 in Hyderabad?
- An EP Intergroup High Level Event on CBD COP11 preparations is scheduled in June 2012;
- A ministerial meeting on Europe overseas with the goal of enhancing EU commitments before CBD COP11 is planned in September (to be confirmed);
- IUCN World Conservation Congress: IUCN members will present a motion on islands and a motion on Europe overseas. A number of Forum events are also scheduled (September 2012);
- CBD COP 11 (October 2012): IUCN is collaborating with GLISPA and the SCBD on the preparation of the Island Summit with representation from EU overseas.

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<sup>41</sup> The full presentation is available online at [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/6\\_ibpowupdate\\_rt1402\\_cbd.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/6_ibpowupdate_rt1402_cbd.pdf)

<sup>42</sup> See the report in English, French or Spanish, including the regional study, at [http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/overseas\\_publications/cbd\\_implementation\\_eu\\_overseas.cfm](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/overseas_publications/cbd_implementation_eu_overseas.cfm)

## Action

- The participants noted progress and activities planned for 2012 in support of island biodiversity;
- Participants to advise IUCN of proposed attendance of Europe overseas at CBD and other international events.

## 4.2. Opportunities of Europe overseas engagement in the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)

Yabanex Batista (TNC), a member of the GLISPA Steering Committee, presented<sup>43</sup> the GLISPA and the opportunity it offers to EU overseas.

GLISPA<sup>44</sup> is open to any entity committed to taking significant action to ensure island conservation and sustainable livelihoods by inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitments and facilitation collaboration. Since 2005, GLISPA has engaged more than 120 countries and organizations and helped to catalyze more than USD 100 million in commitments for islands.

GLISPA assists islands in addressing one of the world's greatest challenges – to conserve and sustainably utilize invaluable island natural resources that support people, cultures and livelihoods in their island homes around the world. It is a partnership for all islands, regardless of size or political status, to take bold steps towards greater sustainability. It provides a global platform that enables islands to work together to develop solutions to common problems and to take high-level commitments and actions that address these global challenges. GLISPA is **voluntary** and **open** to any national or local government, agency, organization or individual that shares in its mission.

GLISPA will be supporting its partners to host a series of strategic, high level events to recognize the early action taken by islands in advancing the green economy and celebrate the leadership of both island countries and countries that support islands. Priority areas for 2012-2015 include strengthening ecosystem based adaptation, combating mitigation and invasive species, as well as linking conservation and sustainable livelihoods to development and the green economy.

### Europe overseas can engage and contribute to GLISPA in several ways:

#### (1) By inspiring leadership

- The Conference on halting biodiversity loss and combating climate change held in Reunion Island in 2008 was a major event which placed EU overseas on the global map for the first time;
- Mr Ponga, Member of the European Parliament addressing GLISPA Island high Ministerial Event at CBD COP 10 in Nagoya said: the biodiversity and ecosystem services of our islands provide us with essential economic opportunities. EU overseas leaders need to be identified and come forward.

#### (2) By catalyzing commitments

- Through Mr Ponga's leadership, the European Parliament has recognized the need for a Preparatory Action on a BEST with 2 calls for proposals (2011-2012) to the amount of EUR 4 million implemented by the European Commission;
- There is also an opportunity for Europe overseas to join regional island commitments such as the Caribbean Challenge (British, French and Dutch territories) and the Indian Ocean Challenge (French territories).

<sup>43</sup> The full presentation is available online at [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/7\\_glispa\\_euoverseas\\_rt1402.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/7_glispa_euoverseas_rt1402.pdf)

<sup>44</sup> See more about GLISPA at [www.glispa.org](http://www.glispa.org)

(3) By increasing visibility of EU overseas and collaboration

- GLISPA's planned international events for 2012<sup>45</sup> provide a avenues for EU overseas to share their experience with island countries and increase their visibility in island conservation. The Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change has a facilitation role so the EU overseas voice can be heard.

### **Discussion**

The participants raised a question of whether BEST could lead to an Europe Overseas Challenge. At this stage, BEST is a preparatory action on which to build, noting that BEST call for proposals are open to third party actors and signals an intent to greater regional collaborations on common issues.

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<sup>45</sup> Those include the Leaders Platform & Rio Conventions Pavilion at RIO+20, IUCN World Conservation Congress, the Island Summit during the CBD COP 11

## 5. Summary and next steps

Agenda item	Agreement/action
<b>2. Update on the Preparatory Action for BEST initiative</b>	
2.2. IUCN BEST project on Building Partnerships and Awareness on Biodiversity and Climate Change in Europe Overseas for the Future of BEST	<p>The following Roundtable members agreed to work on a roadmap and a mobilizing strategy over the next 6 months (key milestone/events, target groups, action needed, lead): AFD (comments only), Birdlife, OCTA, RSPB, in addition to Conservation International (Europe), DEFRA, EBCD, EEA, IUCN and UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF) that were nominated from the last Roundtable meeting.</p> <p>IUCN to convene a mobilization meeting to facilitate the development of the roadmap and better coordination of mobilization efforts and IUCN to report on progress at the next Roundtable meeting</p> <p>DG ENV to report on the outcomes of the EC-EU Member States' meeting scheduled for March 2012</p>
2.3. Proposal for a workshop on Strategic priorities for biodiversity and climate change in Europe overseas	<p>The following Roundtable members agreed to be engaged in the project and the proposed steering committee: AFD, ATEN, Cayman islands, CI Europe, DG ENV, DG MARE, ECBD, FCO, IUCN, IUCN French National Committee, RSPB; Greenland to consult with the OCTA Executive Committee and come back</p> <p>IUCN to liaise with France Ministry of Overseas territories on the next steps and advise the Roundtable members</p>
<b>3. Thematic Discussion on Europe Overseas and EU Marine Policies</b>	
3.1. Overview of EU and international marine policies and the role of Europe overseas	<p>Given that further exchange is needed on how best to integrate Europe overseas interests in the EC marine and maritime IUCN and DG MARE to set up bilateral meeting to consider options</p> <p>IUCN and DG MARE to discuss options to link their respective forums</p>
3.2. Towards better integration of Europe overseas in EU marine policies: AAMP/IUCN Project on a review of overseas marine conservation efforts in a regional, EU and global context	<p>EBCD to advise the Roundtable on the CBD, FAO and EBCD project</p> <p>AFD to propose 3 key themes to focus the review</p> <p>IUCN and AAMP to invite interested Roundtable members to provide further comments and help identify key contacts at EU, EU Member States and local/regional level to assist in the implementation of the review</p>
<b>4. CBD In-depth Review of the Island Biodiversity Programme of Work</b>	
4.1. Update on the CBD island biodiversity programme of work, draft IDR report, preparation for SBSTTA-16 and COP 11: Plans for Europe overseas engagement	<p>The participants noted progress and activities planned for 2012 in support of island biodiversity</p> <p>Participants to advise IUCN of proposed attendance of Europe overseas at CBD and other international events</p>

## Appendix 1: Agenda of the second meeting of the Roundtable, 14 February 2012

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker	Objective/Outcome
8:30	Registration		
9:00	Welcome	Ms Dominique Benzaken (IUCN)	
9:05	Introductions of new participants	Mr Lawrence Jones-Walters (Facilitator)	
9:15	Endorsement of the agenda, logistics etc.	Mr Lawrence Jones-Walters (Facilitator) Ms Dominique Benzaken (IUCN)	Objectives and agenda procedure endorsed
<b>SESSION 1: ACTION ARISING AND PROGRESS REPORT</b>			
9:20	Participants' progress report, planned activities and emerging issues	Mr Lawrence Jones-Walters (Facilitator) All participants	
10:15	Roundtable action arising from last meeting	Ms Dominique Benzaken (IUCN)	Document: Roundtable report, revised TORs circulated beforehand
10:30	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>		
<b>SESSION 2: UPDATE ON THE BEST INITIATIVE</b>			
11:00	Update on BEST	Ms Karin Zaunberger (DG ENV)	Outcomes of the 2011 Open Call for Proposals and upcoming 2012 call
11:15	Discussion	All participants	
11:30	IUCN BEST project on Building Partnerships and Awareness on Biodiversity and Climate Change in Europe Overseas for the Future of BEST	Ms Dominique Benzaken (IUCN)	Presentation of the project and discussion of engagement of the Roundtable Document: Summary of the project circulated beforehand
11:45	Discussion and actions	Mr Lawrence Jones-Walters (Facilitator)	
12:00	Proposal for a workshop on strategic priorities for biodiversity and climate change in Europe overseas	Mr Pascal Colin (French Ministry of Overseas)	Presentation and discussion of the proposal
11:15	Discussion	Mr Lawrence Jones-Walters (Facilitator) All participants	
12:45	<i>Lunch</i>		

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker	Objective/Outcome
<b>SESSION 3: THEMATIC DISCUSSION: EUROPE OVERSEAS AND EU MARINE POLICIES</b>			
13:45	Overview of EU and international marine policies and the role of Europe overseas	Mr Rafaël Deroo (DG MARE)	Overview of EU marine policies and discussion of challenges and opportunities
14:00	Towards better integration of Europe overseas in EU marine policies	Ms Dominique Benzaken (IUCN)	Presentation and discussion of the project of the Agence des Aires Marines Protégées and IUCN
14:15	Discussion	Mr Lawrence Jones-Walters (Facilitator) All participants	
14:45	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>		
<b>SESSION 4: CBD IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE ISLAND BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME OF WORK</b>			
15:00	Update on the CBD Island Biodiversity Programme of Work Draft IDR report Preparation for SBSTTA-16 and COP 11: plans for Europe overseas engagement	Ms Dominique Benzaken (IUCN) on behalf of Mr Oliver Hiller (SCBD)	Contribution of Europe overseas
15:10	Opportunities of Europe overseas engagement in the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)	Mr Yabanex Batista (TNC/GLISPA Steering Committee)	
15:20	Discussion	All participants	
<b>SESSION 5: SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS</b>			
15:45	Wrap-up	Mr Lawrence Jones-Walters (Facilitator) Ms Dominique Benzaken (IUCN)	
16:00	<i>Meeting close</i>		

## Appendix 2: Participant organizations of the second meeting of the Roundtable, 14 February 2012

#	Organization
1	Atelier Technique des Espaces Naturels (ATEN)
2	BirdLife Europe
3	Cayman Islands
4	Conservation International-Europe
5	ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation (meeting facilitation)
6	European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)
7	European Commission DG DEVCO
8	European Commission DG ENV
9	European Commission DG MARE
10	European Commission DG REGIO
17	European Parliament / MEP Maurice Ponga's office
11	French Development Agency (AFD)
12	French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing (MEDDTL)
13	French Ministry of Overseas (MOM)
14	Greenland/Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union Association (OCTA)
15	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
16	IUCN French National Committee
18	Permanent Representation of Denmark to the EU
19	Permanent Representation of Portugal to the EU (Azores)
20	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
21	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)/ Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA)
22	UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)/UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
23	UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO)

**Apologies:** Agence des Aires Marines Protégées, Aruba/ Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Curaçao, Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA), Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, European Commission DG DEVCO OCT Taskforce, European Environment Agency (EEA), Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO)/ BirdLife France, Montserrat, NET-BIOME, OCTA/New Caledonia, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Sint Maarten, St Pierre and Miquelon/OCTA, UK Department for International Development (DFID), UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF), WWF France.