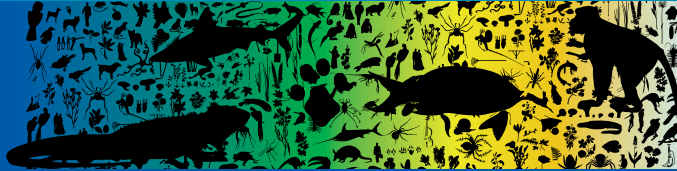


**BEST**

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

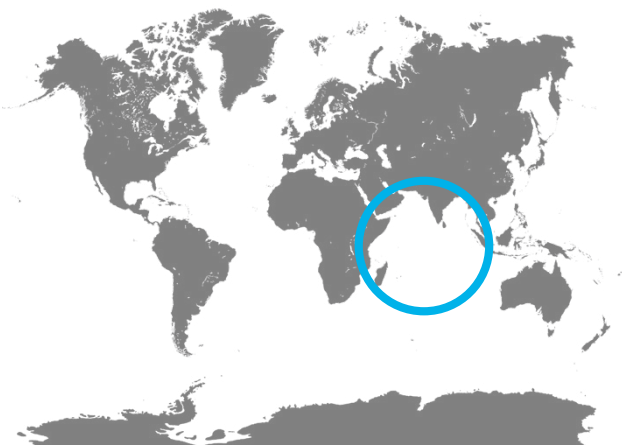


# BEST IMPACT FACTSHEET

INDIAN OCEAN · 2015 - 2023

## BEST IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL  
CONSERVATION



British Indian Ocean  
Territory (BIOT)

Scattered Islands

Mayotte

Réunion Island

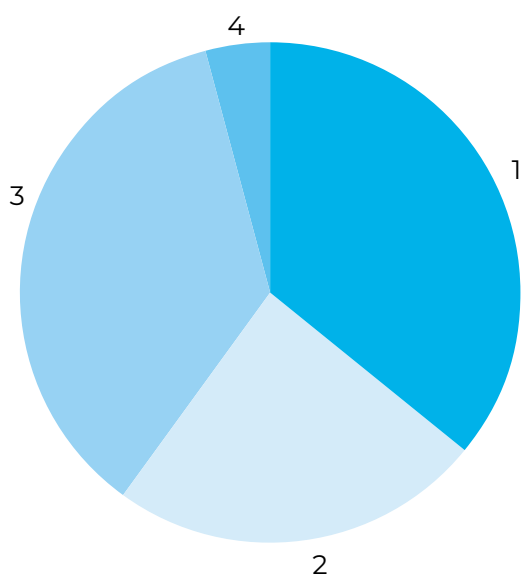


# BEST IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

## STRENGTHENING GLOBAL CONSERVATION

Positioned around Madagascar, the four European Overseas entities of the Indian Ocean have specific characteristics and form a very mixed area with various biodiversity challenges. The two French Outermost Regions, Réunion Island and Mayotte, are among the most densely populated areas in Europe, while the two Overseas Countries and Territories, the French Scattered Islands and British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) are uninhabited. The Scattered Islands are composed of five islands, i.e. Tromelin, Glorioso, Juan de Nova, Bassas da India and Europa; BIOT, also called Chagos Archipelago, is formed by five atolls and 55 islands. All these territories share the same climate and are frequently hit by tropical cyclones. From 2015 to 2023, BEST programmes supported 25 projects in this region worth more than €1.6 million.

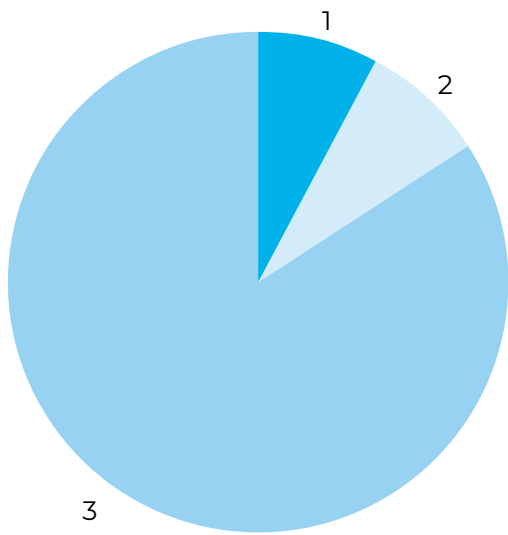
Total funding  
**€ 1,665,863.93**



### No of projects

|                      |           | %    |
|----------------------|-----------|------|
| 1. Mayotte           | 9         | 36.0 |
| 2. Scattered Islands | 6         | 24.0 |
| 3. Reunion           | 9         | 36.0 |
| 4. BIOT              | 1         | 4.0  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>25</b> |      |





### Beneficiaries

|    |                        | %  |
|----|------------------------|----|
| 1. | Research organisations | 2  |
| 2. | Local authorities      | 2  |
| 3. | NGOs                   | 21 |



## Key achievements

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Focus on marine areas   | 52% of projects |
| Inventories   | 688             |
| New species   | 13              |
| Area covered by Invasive Alien Species prevention and control measures (km <sup>2</sup> ) | 396.1           |
| Jobs supported  | 20              |
| Volunteers  | 202             |
| “Education and awareness-building events”   | 79              |
| ...people reached   | 53,200          |
| Publications  | 35              |
| Collaborations  | 106             |
| Activity beyond   | 44% of projects |

## ABOUT BEST

The BEST initiative started as a follow-up to the ‘Message from Réunion Island’<sup>1</sup>, which called for a dedicated funding mechanism to support the conservation of EU Overseas’ biodiversity. The BEST Preparatory Action, adopted by the European Parliament in 2010 (BEST PA), provided seed money to fund 16 projects via two calls for project proposals known as BEST I-2011 and BEST II-2012. The work enabled through the BEST PA stimulated further investment in the EU Overseas through BEST RUP, in the French Outermost Regions (ORs) and BEST 2.0, in the Overseas Countries and Territories<sup>2</sup> (OCTs). In 2019-2020, LIFE4BEST and BEST 2.0+ followed the end of BEST RUP and BEST 2.0 respectively, supporting 40 projects in the ORs and 23 in the OCTs. Both programmes support field actions that aim to enable, empower and strengthen local authorities and civil society organisations committed to local development, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services.

For more information on the BEST Initiative:

<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/best>

<https://www.best2plus.org>

<https://www.life4best.org/>



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1 Outcome of the Conference “European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss” held under the French Presidency in 2008.

2 As a result of Brexit, the number of Overseas Countries and Territories associated with the EU has been reduced from 25 to 13.