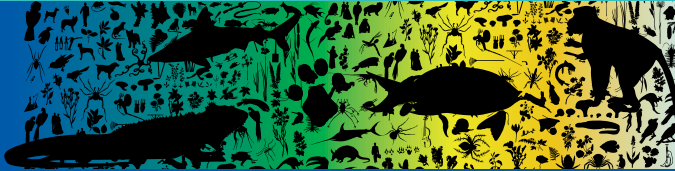


**BEST**

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



# BEST IMPACT FACTSHEET

PACIFIC • 2015 - 2023



## BEST IN THE PACIFIC

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL  
CONSERVATION

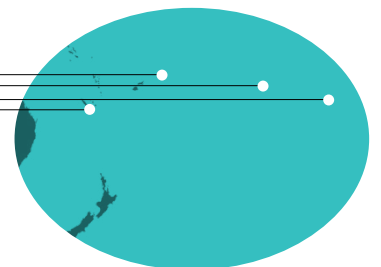


Wallis and Futuna

French Polynesia

Pitcairn

New Caledonia

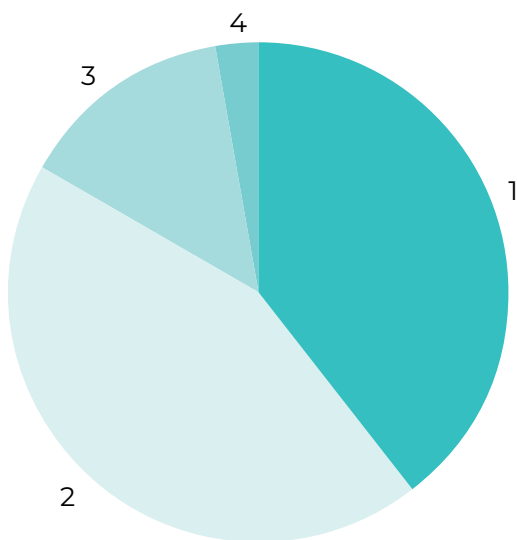


# BEST IN THE PACIFIC

## STRENGTHENING GLOBAL CONSERVATION

The Pacific region brings together four Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) - New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, French Polynesia, and the Pitcairn Islands - spreading over 150 islands and more than 20% of the atolls in the world. It is the second-largest European Overseas region, and its biodiversity is threatened by habitat destruction, invasive species, economic activities, and climate change. From 2015 to 2023, BEST supported 38 projects in the Pacific worth over € 3.5 million.

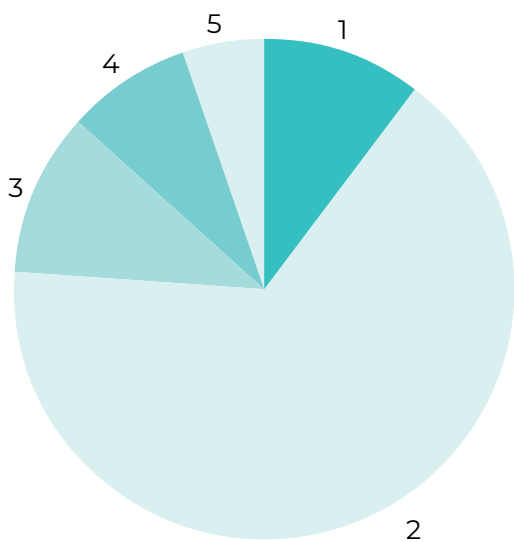
Total funding  
**€ 3,583,704.08**



### No of projects

		%
1. French Polynesia	15	39.58
2. New Caledonia	17	43.79
3. Wallis and Futuna	5	14.11
4. Pitcairn	1	2.53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	





### Beneficiaries

		%	
1.	Local authorities	4	10.53
2.	NGOs	25	65.79
3.	SMEs	4	10.53
4.	National agencies	3	7.89
5.	Regional organisations	2	5.26





## Key achievements

Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services	<b>92.1% of projects</b>
Enhanced conservation measures of marine and coastal areas	<b>28,000 km<sup>2</sup></b>
Terrestrial area with new assessment in	<b>18,576 km<sup>2</sup></b>
Number of Invasive Alien Species monitored	<b>12</b>
New species assessed	<b>20</b>
New species described	<b>1</b>
Endangered species benefited	<b>53</b>
Climate change mitigation or adaptation	<b>44.7% of projects</b>
People directly employed thanks to BEST grants	<b>95</b>
Education and awareness building events	<b>320</b>
Individuals with improved knowledge	<b>3,309</b>
Collaborations	<b>321</b>
New policy and legislative acts	<b>3</b>
Number of species benefitting from conservation, restoration and / or assessment measures	<b>156</b>

## 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.