

**BEST**

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



# BEST IMPACT FACTSHEET

SOUTH ATLANTIC · 2015 - 2023



# BEST IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

**STRENGTHENING GLOBAL CONSERVATION**

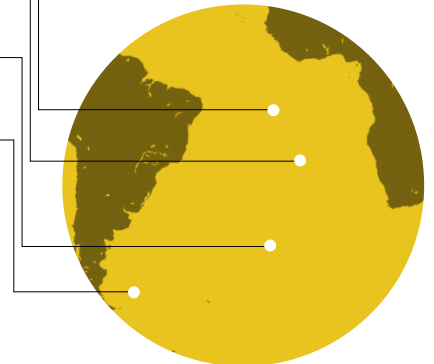


Ascension Island

Saint Helena

Tristan da Cunha

Falkland Islands  
(Malvinas)



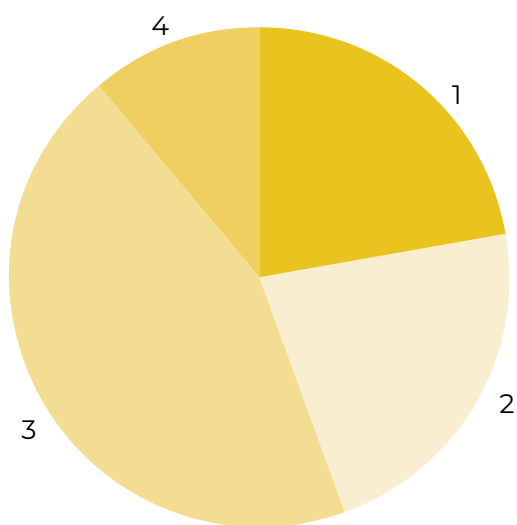
# BEST IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

## STRENGTHENING GLOBAL CONSERVATION

The Overseas Countries and Territories of the South Atlantic region are composed of two UK<sup>1</sup> Overseas Territories of four very distinct islands or islands groups reaching across the South Atlantic Ocean: Saint Helena, Ascension Island, and Tristan da Cunha (part of a single territory) as well as the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). They span a range of climatic systems and harbour differing ecosystems but are all vulnerable to invasive species, climate change and illegal fishing. From 2015 to 2023, BEST supported 9 projects in the South Atlantic worth over € 762.000.

<sup>1</sup> BREXIT: In accordance with the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement of the UK from the EU, the UK registered natural and legal persons – and goods originating from the UK – was eligible for BEST funding as if the UK were an EU Member State for all programmes financed under the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF 2014-2020) and under the European Development Fund (11th EDF and previous ones till their conclusion).

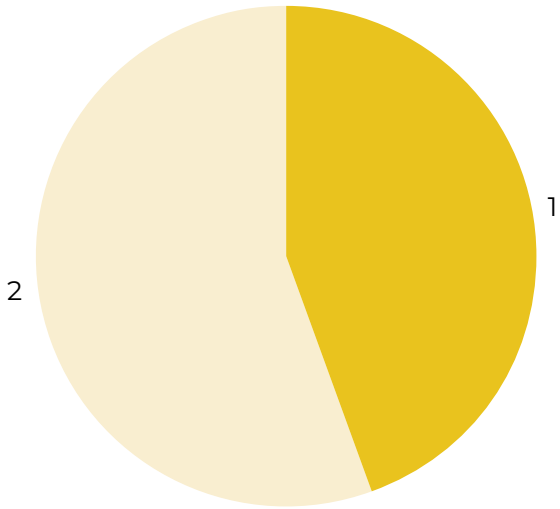
Total funding  
**€ 762,104.31**



### No of projects

		%	
1.	Falkland Islands	2	22.22
2.	Tristan da Cunha	2	22.22
3.	Saint Helena	4	44.44
4.	Ascension Island	1	11.13
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9</b>	





### Beneficiaries

		%	
1.	NGOs	4	44.4
2.	Local authorities	5	55.6



## Key achievements

Practices on the sustainable use of natural resources	33% of projects
Endemic species that benefitted from protection measures	9
Marine and coastal areas benefitted	571 km <sup>2</sup>
Marine Protected Area (MPA) created	1 of 445,000 km <sup>2</sup>
Jobs supported	5
Volunteers engaged	108
Individuals trained	110
People sensitised	64,400
Publications	33
Media interventions	40
Collaborations	43
Activity beyond	88.9% of projects

## ABOUT BEST

The [BEST initiative](#) started as a follow-up to the ‘[Message from Réunion Island](#)’, 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/>



This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of IUCN and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



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.