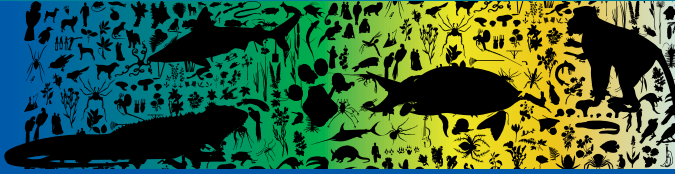


BEST

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



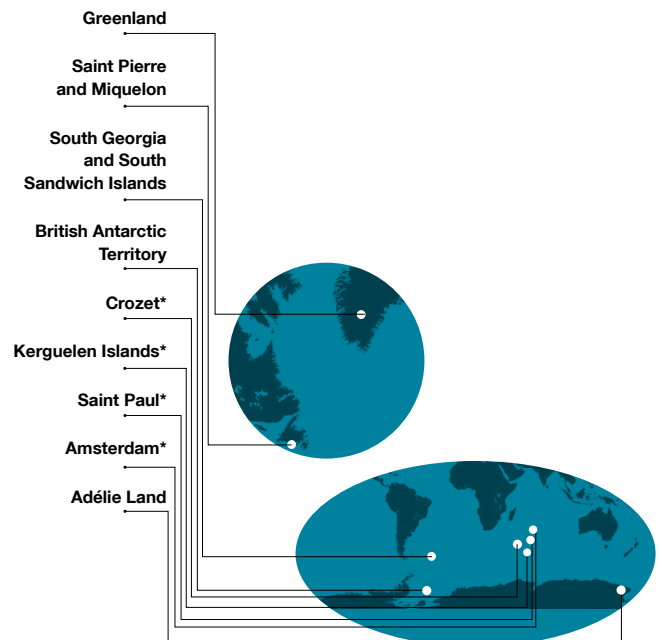
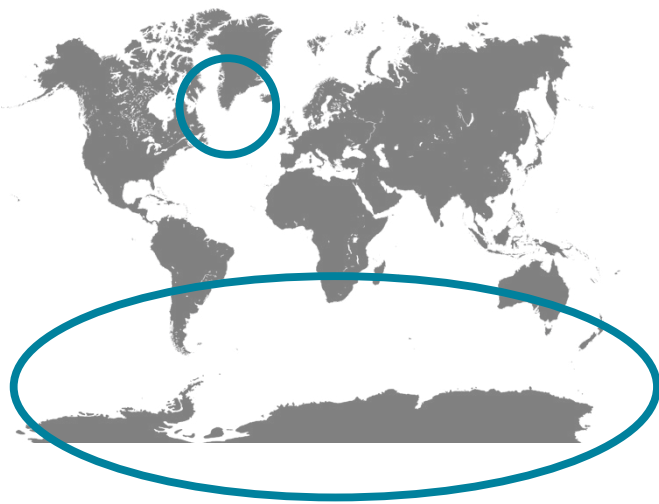
BEST IMPACT FACTSHEET

POLAR & SUB-POLAR · 2015 - 2023



BEST IN THE POLAR & SUB-POLAR

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL
CONSERVATION



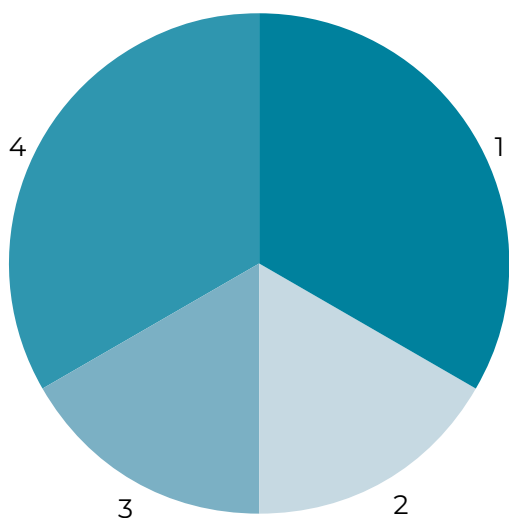
BEST IN THE POLAR & SUB-POLAR

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL CONSERVATION

From 2015 to 2023, BEST supported field actions to empower and strengthen local stakeholders committed to local development, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services. Six projects, worth close to € 959,000 were financed by BEST in the region. The French Southern and Antarctic Lands, Saint Pierre and Miquelon (France), Greenland (Denmark), South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (United Kingdom¹) benefitted from BEST actions.

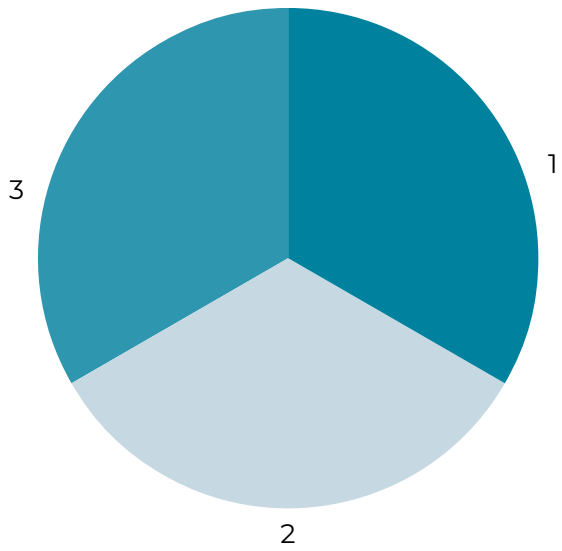
¹ BREXIT: In accordance with the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement of the UK from the EU, the UK registered natural and legal persons – and goods originating from the UK – was eligible for BEST funding as if the UK were an EU Member State for all programmes financed under the Multi-annual Financial Framework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

Total funding
€ 959,788.97



No of projects

		%
1. Saint Pierre and Miquelon	2	33.33
2. Greenland	1	16.67
3. South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands	1	16.67
4. French Southern and Antarctic Lands, Amsterdam & St Paul Islands	2	33.33
TOTAL	6	



Beneficiaries

		%
1. NGOs	2	33.33
2. Local authorities	2	33.33
3. National Agencies and Research Centres	2	33.33



Key achievements

Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services	83.3% of projects
Fresh water area with an updated assessment	2.5 km²
Marine areas covered	67 million hectares
New Marine Protected Area (MPA)	1
Projects contributed to climate change mitigation or adaptation	50% of projects
Species studied	41
Children engaged in schools presentations	2040
Events	135
Publications	33
Media interventions	22
People reached by events	2,120
People reached by comms	233,000
Collaborations	36

ABOUT BEST

The BEST initiative started as a follow-up to the ‘Message from Réunion Island’¹, 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 Territories² (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.