



Grant scheme for biodiversity in EU Overseas

BESTLIFE2030 preserves biodiversity in the EU's Outermost Regions and associated Overseas Countries and Territories



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BEST *Life* 2030

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Building on the legacy of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas Initiative

Political commitments at the highest levels set the global agenda, yet it is at the local level where these priorities translate into tangible actions and, ultimately, impact. Local actors are at the forefront of this work, and their contributions must be unequivocally acknowledged. This vision of funding community empowerment for conservation action is embodied by the BESTLIFE2030 programme, building upon the legacy of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST).

The BEST grants were founded on a theory of change focused on enhancing capacities for biodiversity conservation practice. It established a granting mechanism that provided accessible funding to groups and communities, including those in remote areas often overlooked by larger funding programmes. By prioritising context-appropriate approaches, this funding model minimised the distance between community-driven needs and the materialisation of support for those needs, with BEST tasked with facilitating local conservation practices rather than dictating them.

Additionally, BEST's funding approach illustrated that local conservation action requires more than just financial resources; it necessitates networking opportunities, experience-sharing, knowledge management, and technical, financial, and communication support. In this regard, BEST played a crucial role in assisting organisations in these processes, going beyond mere financial assistance.



1. Overview

BESTLIFE2030, a granting mechanism funded by the EU's LIFE Programme with support from the French Biodiversity Agency OFB, will distribute over 200 grants totalling more than €23 million by 2030 across the EU's Outermost Regions and associated Overseas Countries and Territories to support local conservation efforts.

BESTLIFE2030 engages with local actors in six regions across the Outermost Regions and associated Overseas Countries and Territories.

- **Amazonia:** French Guiana;
- **Caribbean:** Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Martin, Saint Barthélemy, Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint-Eustatius and Sint Maarten;
- **Indian Ocean:** Réunion, Mayotte, French Southern and Antarctic Lands - Scattered Islands, Austral Islands and Adélie Land;
- **Macaronesia:** Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands;
- **North Atlantic:** Greenland and Saint-Pierre and Miquelon;
- **Pacific:** New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna.

The financing facility will operate through four calls for proposals with selected proposals implemented over the 8-year programme duration.

2. Relevance

Despite harbouring rich marine, terrestrial, and freshwater biodiversity, the EU Overseas territories are among the most vulnerable places on Earth to climate change impacts. Aligned with global targets to be met by 2030, BESTLIFE2030 will strengthen EU Member States' contributions toward achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Through targeted interventions in the Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories, BESTLIFE2030 will contribute to efforts aimed at meeting European and global targets.

3. Consortium

The BESTLIFE2030 consortium unites well-established partners sharing a collective commitment to nature conservation. Each partner contributes specialised expertise in grant management, capacity development, and institutional relations within the Outermost Regions and associated Overseas Countries and Territories.

- **The French Biodiversity Agency (OFB)**, acting as regional hub for the Indian Ocean (ORs & OCTs), Caribbean (ORs and OCTs), Amazonia and Saint-Pierre and Miquelon;
- **IUCN National Committee of The Netherlands Foundation**, acting as regional hub for the Caribbean (OCTs);
- **IUCN French National Committee**, acting as regional hub for the Pacific (OCTs);
- **Consulta Europa**, acting as regional hub for Macaronesia (ORs);
- **Nordeco**, acting as regional hub for Greenland (OCT);
- **The Conference of Presidents of Outermost Regions (CPRUP)**, acting as strategic and policy adviser for the ORs;
- **The Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA)**, acting as strategic and policy adviser for the OCTs.

4. Objectives

4.1. Overall Objective

To promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services, including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as fundamental pillars for sustainable development in the Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories.

4.2. Specific objectives

- Establish an ambitious and flexible small-grant facility to support stakeholders in the EU Overseas to achieve measurable targets for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and the sustainable use of ecosystem services;
- Strengthen the capacities of local stakeholders to design and implement projects responding to regional challenges, and to effectively address conservation issues;
- Seek coordination with other existing granting mechanisms to foster interregional cooperation;
- Engage in key policy discussions at EU and international levels;
- Ensure project sustainability by integrating, sharing, and standardising results, impact, and best practices through the project's knowledge management tools;
- Contribute to global objectives and goals concerning biodiversity, sustainable development, and climate change.

5. Target audience

In line with the goals of the project, the target audiences of BESTLIFE2030 comprise:

- Local non-governmental organisations (NGOs);
- Local civil society organisations (CSOs);
- Local community-based organisations (CBOs);
- Local not-for-profit organisations;
- Small and medium enterprises;
- Local research organisations;
- Local sub-governmental bodies, i.e. municipalities, cities of territory and communal services.

6. Principles of the granting mechanism

Incorporating criteria such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, and sustainability, BESTLIFE2030's granting scheme is founded on several key principles:


- Robust yet flexible calls for proposals to address regional biodiversity challenges effectively;
- Tailor-made capacity strengthening of applicants and grantees to enhance their skills across transversal topics;
- Multi-stakeholder engagement to facilitate purposeful and meaningful participation;
- Solid project monitoring and evaluation systems to track and report on achieved results;
- Robust experience capitalisation process to promote and share knowledge and experiences acquired among grantees;
- Well-thought-out communication and visibility strategy to enhance the programme's actions and results.

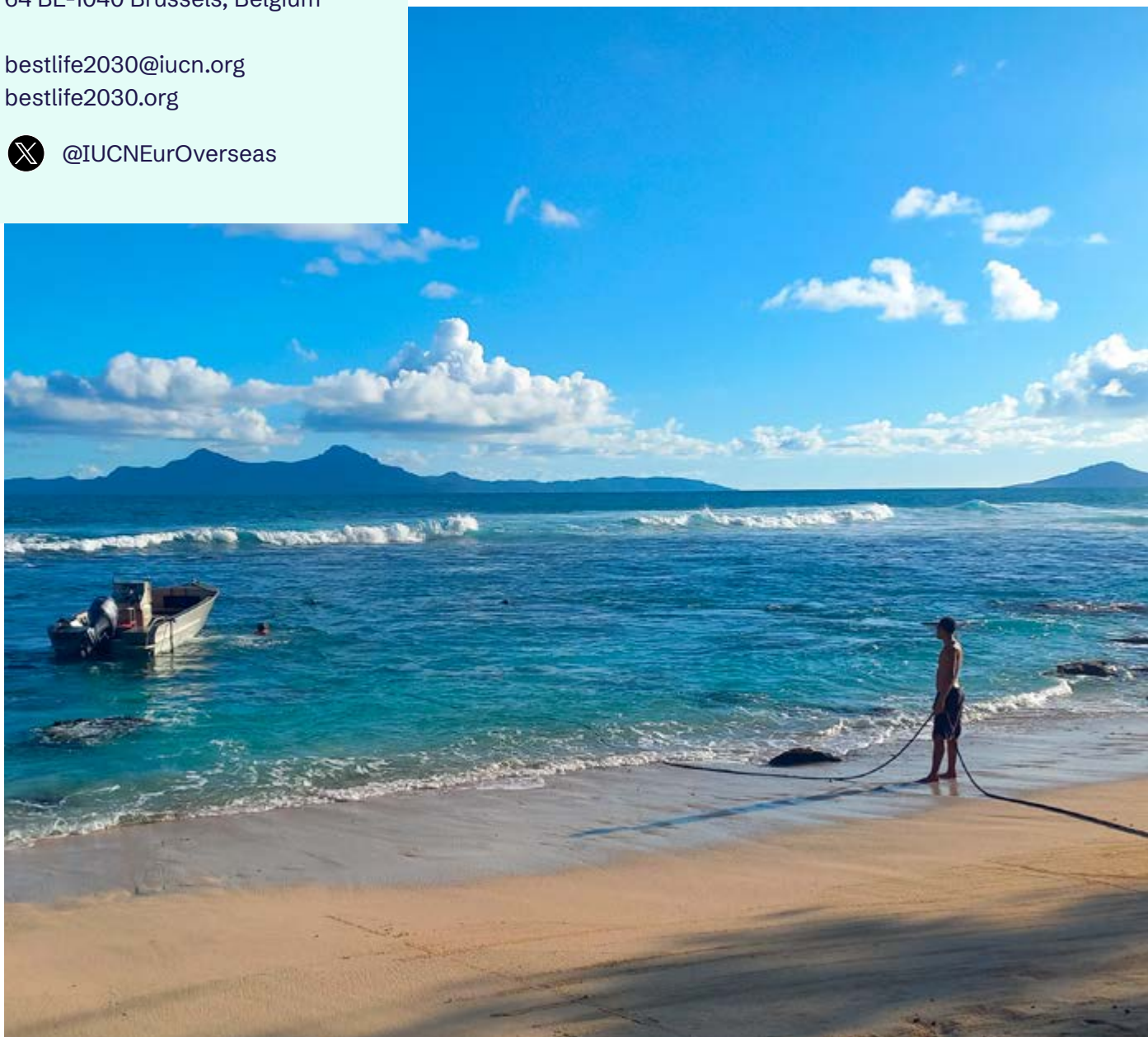


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