



3-11 June 2023

#EUGreenWeek  
PARTNER EVENT

## BEST Initiative – Past, present and future



Life4BEST



BEST

*Mayotte (France), Dembéni village adjacent mangrove after clean-up activity, LIFE4BEST project "Sustainable mangrove management through a participatory approach" implemented by local NGO Naturalistes Environnement et Patrimoine de Mayotte (photo: IUCN/Alex Craciun, June 2022)*

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 16:15 – 18:00 CEST**

**Hybrid EU Green Week partner event held at the European Parliament  
(Room PHS 4B1) & online**

**Co-hosted by MEP Stéphane Bijoux & MEP Sara Cerdas**

**Co-Chairs of the 'Islands and Overseas Entities WG' of the  
European Parliament Intergroup on 'Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development'**

**(Interpretation EN <> FR)**

Over 80% of Europe's biodiversity is found in the European Overseas. These Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) are essential for achieving the EU's biodiversity and climate targets and commitments. The EU's ambitious 2030 Biodiversity Strategy requires that the extent of well-managed protected and conserved areas increases to 30% of the EU's land and sea area. At global level, the EU is signatory to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and committed to achieving the goals and targets set at the CBD COP 15 in December 2022.

**Contact:** Ilias Grampas, Deputy Director, EBCD

Secretariat of the EP Intergroup on "Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development"

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With their rich marine, terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, the ORs and OCTs are among the most vulnerable places on Earth. Action to halt biodiversity loss, avert resource degradation, and adapt to climate change is therefore vital, with a high return on investment in both biodiversity and social outcomes. Since 2011, the BEST Initiative has supported local actors on biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of ecosystem services, including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, in the nine EU ORs and 25 OCTs through 153 grants.

This event will take stock of the success stories and lessons learnt of the first 12 years of the initiative, and celebrate a new milestone, with the launch of BESTLIFE2030: a new partnership and a renewed 32 million EUR commitment, for the benefit of people and biodiversity in Europe's overseas.

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## FINAL AGENDA:

*The event will be moderated by **Alberto Arroyo Schnell**,  
Senior Manager Policy and Programme, IUCN European Regional Office*

16:15 – 16:40

### **Opening remarks by:**

- **MEP Stéphane Bijoux**
- **Bettina Doeser**, Head of Unit of ENV D.2. on 'Natural Capital & Ecosystem Health', European Commission
- **Chantal Marijnissen**, Head of Unit of INTPA F.2 on 'Environment, Sustainable Natural Resources', European Commission
- **Cyrille Barnérias**, European and International Relations Director, French Biodiversity Agency
- **Boris Erg**, Director, IUCN European Regional Office

16:40 – 17:20

### **12 years of BEST: success stories from the ground:**

Zoom in on results from BEST RUP, LIFE4BEST, BEST2.0, BEST2.0+:

- **Christèle Allaud**, Caribbean Regional Focal Point – BEST2.0+, LIFE4BEST, BEST RUP programmes
- **Michelle Perello**, CEO, Consulta Europa, Macaronesia Regional Focal Point – LIFE4BEST programme
- **Estelle Crochelet**, Indian Ocean Regional Focal Point – BEST2.0+, LIFE4BEST, BEST RUP programmes

17:20 – 17:45

### **Q&A session with the audience**

17:45 – 17:55

**Announcement of the new BEST phase: BESTLIFE2030** by **Roxana Bucioaca**, Senior Manager, IUCN

17:55 – 18:00

**Closing remarks by MEP Sara Cerdas**

Kindly note that a networking reception at the European Parliament is scheduled to take place after the event



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