

BEST

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

BEST IMPACT FACTSHEET

CARIBBEAN • 2015-2019



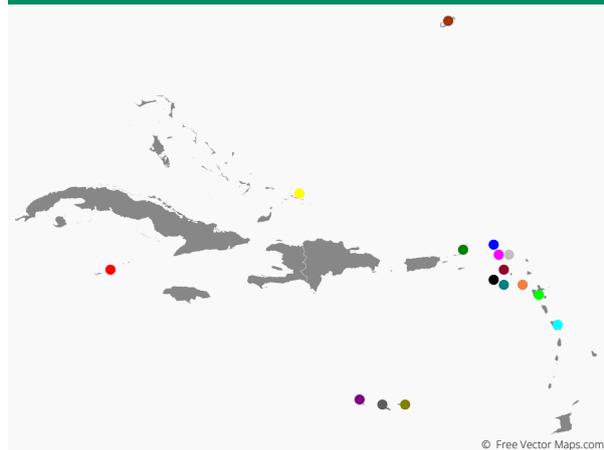
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BEST IN THE CARIBBEAN

STRENGTHENING LOCAL CONSERVATION

The Caribbean region is home to 16 European Overseas entities politically attached to the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands. With a tropical climate, these territories are home to contrasting ecosystems: from rainforests and rivers to dry scrublands and coral reefs and mangroves. The Caribbean islands hotspot supports an important biodiversity - in particular within its diverse terrestrial ecosystems hosting a high proportion of endemism - making the region one of the world's greatest centres of biodiversity.

From 2015 to 2019, the BEST programmes supported field actions to empower and strengthen local stakeholders committed to local development, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services. 23 projects - worth €2.8 million in total - were supported by BEST in the region.

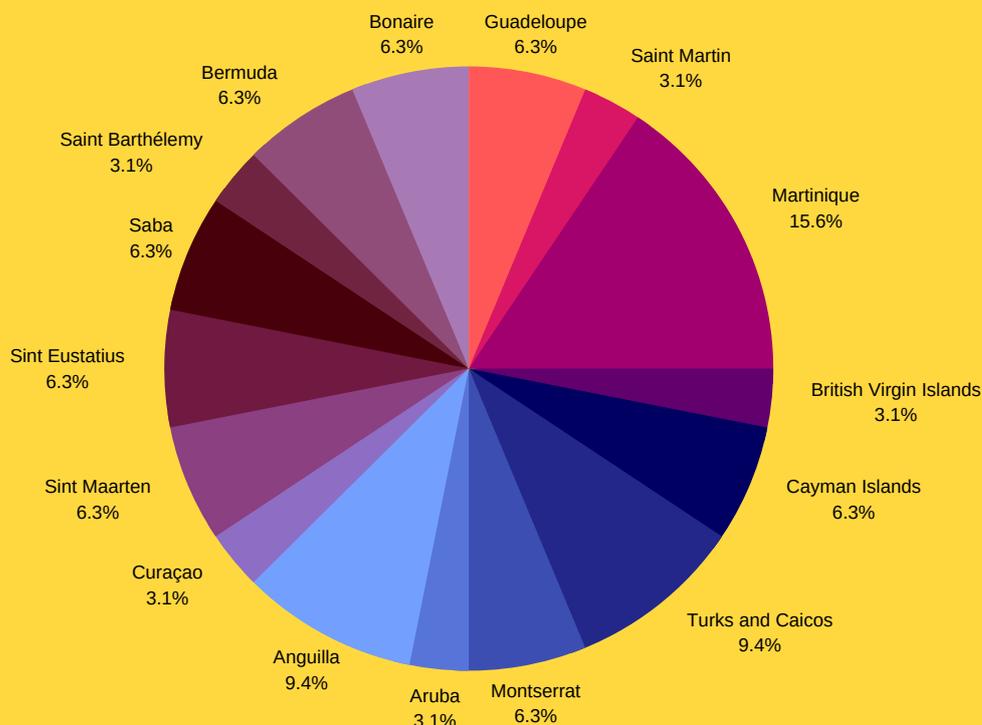


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- Cayman Islands
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- British Virgin Islands
- Anguilla
- Saint Martin
- Sint Maarten
- Saint Barthélemy
- Saba
- Sint Eustatius
- Montserrat
- Guadeloupe
- Martinique
- Aruba
- Curacao
- Bonaire
- Bermuda

OVERALL FIGURES

Geographical Scope of Projects



Grant Beneficiaries



PROJECT RESULTS

CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY, SUSTAINABLE USE OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES, CLIMATE CHANGE

91% of the projects were dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. 56.5% on marine and coastal areas and 43.5% on terrestrial areas.



- The inventory of more than **500 species** was updated and almost **300 new species** were assessed.
- **80 endangered species** benefited from protection measures, **25% being endemic**.



- More than **1,300 km²** (mostly marine) benefitted from a new or updated assessment and **51 km²** from enhanced conservation measures.
- Invasive Alien Species: **rats, goats - and other feral animals - lionfish and several types of plants** were impacted by new or enhanced prevention and control.



- **26% of projects** contributed to climate change mitigation or adaptation.

PROJECT RESULTS

CAPACITY BUILDING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND VISIBILITY



- **15 jobs** supported (**73% women**).
- Over **270 volunteers** involved.
- **600 individuals** trained
- More than **5,500 people sensitised** through more than **100 awareness-raising events**.



- **7,500 brochures** and leaflets were distributed locally.
- More than **150,000 people reached** across **28 countries**.



- More than **130 collaborations** were initiated or strengthened at local, regional and international level.
- **70% of the projects extended** their activities beyond the lifespan of the BEST grants.

ABOUT BEST

BEST 2.0 and BEST RUP are programmes respectively financed by the European Commission (EC) - DG DEVCO and DG ENV through the LIFE Programme of the European Union.

Since 2011, the BEST Initiative has supported the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services, including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, in the 9 EU Outermost Regions (ORs), and 25 Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), through more than 100 projects.

The Regional Activity Centre for the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife for the Wider Caribbean Region (RAC-SPAW) was a partner to BEST 2.0 for the Caribbean region.



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For more information on the BEST Initiative:

<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/best>

<https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/our-work/eu-overseas/good-better-best>

In 2020, BEST 2.0+, and LIFE4BEST programmes took over, following the end of BEST 2.0 covering the OCTs and BEST RUP covering the ORs. To learn more, visit:

<https://www.best2plus.org>