



Highlights and funding needs

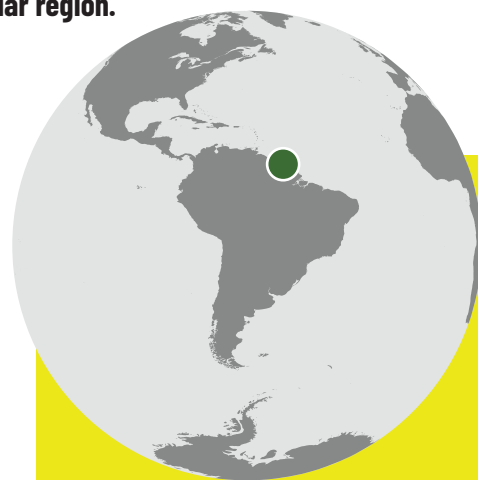
Amazon

French Guiana

With an overall size of over 7.6 million km², New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, French Polynesia and Pitcairn in the Pacific belong to the second largest European Overseas region after the Polar and Sub-polar region.

The five French Polynesian island groups stand out by their remoteness from any continent. Their waters are home to some of the most pristine and best studied coral reefs, which represent an important source of revenue as the ecosystem services they provide are fundamental for the local economy, based mainly on tourism. Home to extremely rich terrestrial and marine biodiversity, New Caledonia has one of the world's highest observed rates of endemic plant species. With a length of 1,600km, New Caledonia's barrier reef is one of the longest worldwide. The French entity Wallis and Futuna is still home to areas of remarkable dense forests, but a much lower level of biodiversity compared to New Caledonia due to their relatively recent geological formation 2 million years ago and extreme geographical isolation. The Pitcairn Islands pristine atolls are home to

a UNESCO World Heritage Site and to over 90% of the world's Murphy's Petrels that nest on the smallest of the 4 islands (Ducie, 3,2 km²). In September 2016 the UK government announced the designation of the world's largest fully protected Marine Reserve of 834,000 km², which encompasses the entire EEZ of Pitcairn excluding the 12 non territorial sea radius surrounding the islands for subsistence fishing. The UK Pitcairn Islands Marine Reserve, part of a network of Pacific MPAs resulting from close international cooperation, is on track for designation and contributes to the UK's intention to establish a "Blue Belt" of MPAs around its overseas marine waters. Although the Pacific region is considered as one of the last places on Earth with minimal human impacts, its biodiversity is threatened by habitat destruction, invasive species, economic activities (tourism, fishing, deforestation, agriculture), and climate change.



Protected areas

4.6% terrestrial area protected

1,034 km² out of 22,440 km²

18.7% marine area protected

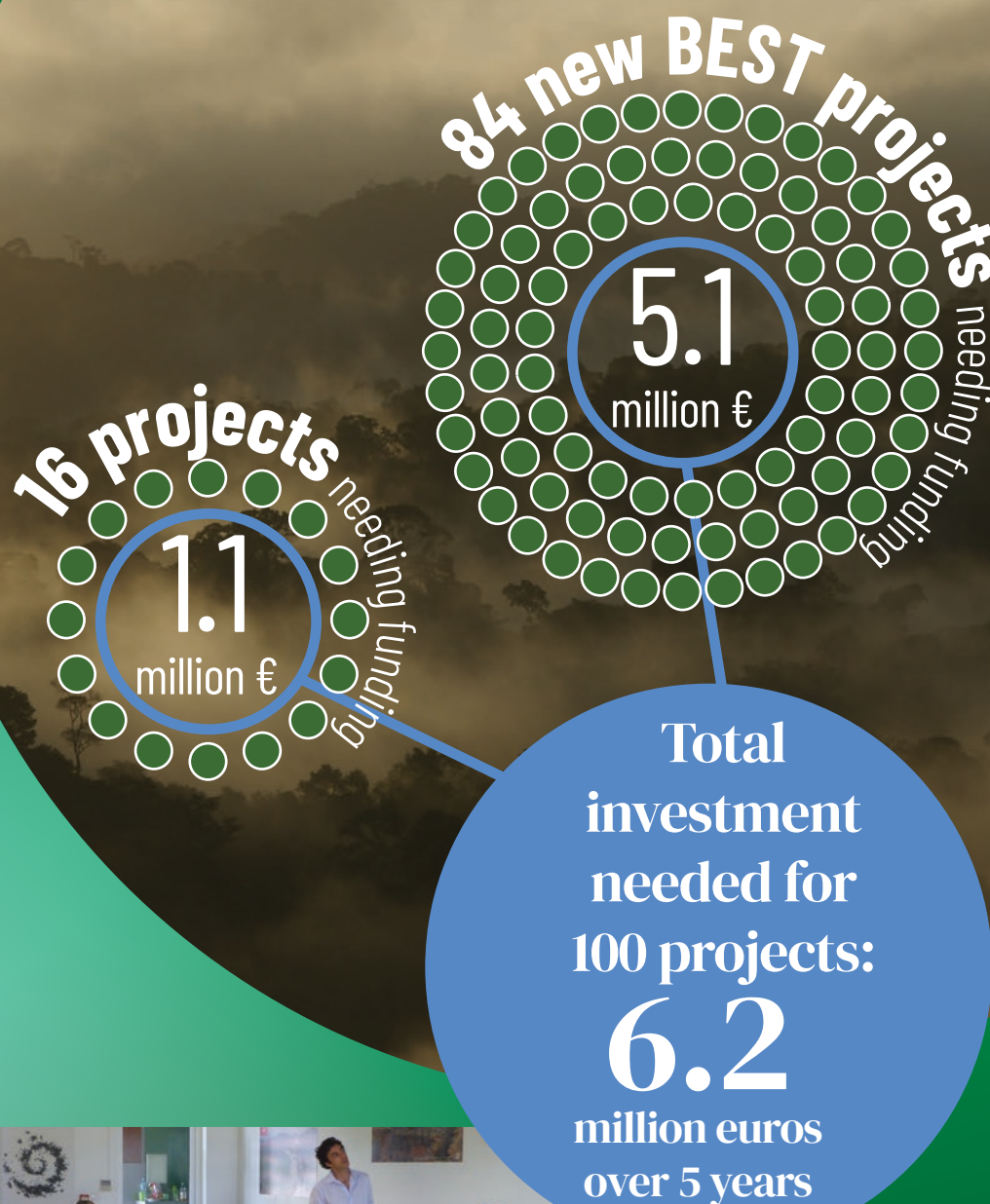
1.4 million km² out of 7.6 million km²

Species

67 globally threatened species
129 trigger species for KBAs



Amazon Ecosystem Profile and Investment strategy key figures



The consultation for the Ecosystem Profile and the Regional Investment Strategy mobilized **more than 50 stakeholders from 20 organizations** (government institutions, civil society and research organizations). Over **20 formal consultations and workshops** were organized and, between 2016 and 2017, **7 regional meetings** were held.

2014-2017 Consultation efforts for the Ecosystem Profile and the Regional Investment Strategy

Amazon Ecosystem profile and investment strategy key findings

Challenges

High unemployment
Illegal mining

Priorities for action

- ✓ Intervention in priority marine KBAs
- ✓ Monitoring climate change effects
- ✓ Preservation and enhancement of knowledge, heritage and landscapes related to biodiversity and natural sites
- ✓ Reconciliation between economic activities and the natural environment
- ✓ Fight against invasive species, incl. improvement of knowledge and management
- ✓ Promotion of sustainable use of biodiversity, valuation of ecosystem services
- ✓ Connectivity between priority natural areas
- ✓ Environmental education and involvement of different relevant communities
- ✓ Integration and regional cooperation



French Guiana

11 Ecological corridors
35,530 km²

61 Priority Key Biodiversity Areas
in 22,655km²

2 Key Biodiversity Areas for
Ecosystem Services

890 thousand€
needed
for **8** new projects

Priority areas of the funding needs

Protected areas

● 2

Ecosystem restoration

● 2

Species conservation

● 2

Climate change

● 1

Why to invest in conservation in the French Guiana

International Recognition of Biodiversity

- 3 Ramsar Wetland Sites
- 12 Important Bird Areas (IBAs)
- Guianan-Amazon mangroves ecoregion
- French Guiana's waters are part of Amazonian-Orinoco Influence Zone (EBSA: Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area)
- North Brazil Shelf (LME 17: Large Marine Ecosystem)

People

250,000 inhabitants (2013 census)

Density of 3/km²

Income sources: Mining, forestry, fishing and aquaculture

Conservation community/actors

100 Local organisations (incl. local NGOs, French research institutions, protected areas managers)

100+ Regional NGOs

1 International organisation

French Guiana, the largest European Outermost Region (OR), is covered by the largest expanse of undisturbed rainforest, of which 80% is still in pristine condition.

French Guiana is 6 times smaller than France but has:

3x more vertebrates

8x more freshwater fishes

5x more reptiles

3x more bats

French Guiana - the only EU Overseas entity located on the South American continent - comprises an important part of the Guiana Shield, a region considered as one of the world's last wilderness areas.



French Guiana's beaches serve as nesting ground for 4 of the world's 7 marine turtle species. Covering only 128 ha (<0.05 %) of French Guiana, the world's two most important egg-laying sites these turtle species are beach habitats of international importance



The mangroves and mudflats along the coastline are considered some of the most extensive and structurally complex in South America, covering around 90% of French Guiana's coastal zones (>14,000 km²), providing habitat for millions of wader birds. Although increasingly under threat, they resemble one of the least degraded mangrove forests in the world.

More information at <http://ec.europa.eu/best>

The Amazon EP and RIS are the knowledge products of the BEST consortium funded by the BEST initiative and coordinated by IUCN. WWF France was the partner for the Amazon region.

