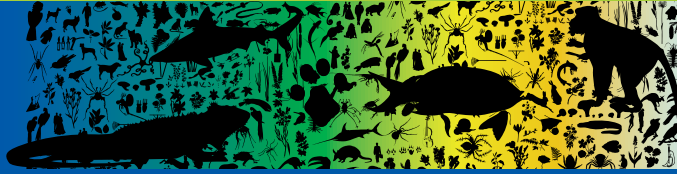


BEST

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



BEST IMPACT FACTSHEET

AMAZONIA • 2015 - 2023

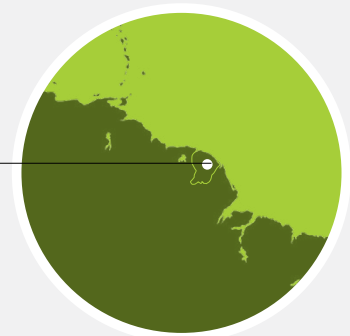
BEST IN AMAZONIA

STRENGTHENING LOCAL CONSERVATION

French Guiana, nestled in the heart of the Amazon rainforest, is celebrated for its extraordinary biodiversity. Its dense tropical forests harbor a vast array of plant and animal species, many of which are endemic and endangered. The region is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts and researchers alike, offering opportunities for exploration and discovery. However, French Guiana faces pressing environmental challenges, including deforestation, habitat loss, and illegal mining activities.



French Guiana



With the financial support from the LIFE Programme of the European Union, the French Office for Biodiversity and the French Agency for Development through the LIFE4BEST Programme

BEST IN THE AMAZONIA REGION

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL CONSERVATION

Efforts are being made to protect and preserve its pristine ecosystems through conservation initiatives and sustainable land management practices. Conservationists and local communities are working together to safeguard these invaluable natural resources for future generations, recognizing the importance of maintaining the ecological balance of this unique and fragile environment.

From 2011 to 2023, BEST programmes supported field actions to empower and strengthen local stakeholders committed to biodiversity conservation, local development, and sustainable use of ecosystem services – 14 projects worth € 612,083.

Total funding
€ 612,083



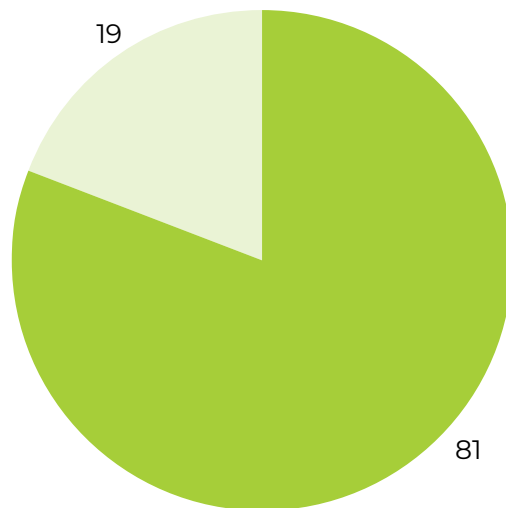
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Geographical Scope (BEST RUP + LIFE4BEST)

1. French Guiana	12 projects
TOTAL	12



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Grant Beneficiaries	%
1. NGOs	100

Main objective and areas of intervention	%
1. Biodiversity conservation	81
2. Protected areas	19



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Projects Results

Fauna species with an updated status	83 (bird and shrimp inventories)
Flora species with an updated status	27
Scientific publications / academic reports	3
People with improved scientific / technical knowledge thanks to trainings	110
People reached by in-person awareness activities	1640
Educational / awareness-raising events held	81
People reached online	37,000
Collaborations	16
Activities lasting beyond grant end	25% of projects
Mobile app to report environmental issues launched	1

ABOUT BEST

The BEST initiative started as a follow-up to the ‘Message from Réunion Island’, 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. A new programme BESTLIFE2030, expected to award over 200 grants in both ORs and OCTs over four calls for proposals, was launched in February 2023.

For more information on the BEST Initiative:

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

<https://www.best2plus.org>

<https://www.life4best.org/>

<https://bestlife2030.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.