Future Directions for Biodiversity Action in Europe Overseas

Outcomes of the Review of the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, December 2010

Dominique Benzaken & Yves Renard

EUROPEAN UNION OUTERMOST REGIONS AND OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES PROGRAMME

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Credits

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Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BAT	British Antarctic Territory
BEST	Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas
BIOT	British Indian Ocean Territory
BSAP	Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
BVI	British Virgin Islands
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CARMABI	Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity
CBBIA	Capacity Building on Biodiversity and Impact Assessment
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
COP	Conference of Parties
DCNA	Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DFID	Department for International Development
DG	Directorate-General
DOM	*Département d'outre-mer* (Overseas "department")
EDF	European Development Fund
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
FRB	*Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité* (Foundation for Biodiversity Research)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GINR	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources
GLISPA	Global Islands Partnership
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LDC	Least Developed Country
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NAPA	National Action Plan for Adaptation to climate change
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OCT	Overseas Country and Territory
OCTA	Overseas Countries and Territories Association
ONERC	*Observatoire National sur les Effets du Réchauffement Climatique* (National Observatory of the Effects of Global Warming)
OR	Outermost Region
OT	Overseas Territory
PII	Pacific Invasive Initiative
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAISP	South Atlantic Invasive Species Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
SPAW	(Protocol on) Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
SPREP	(Secretariat of the) Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TAAF	*Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises* (French Southern and Antarctic Territories)
UK	United Kingdom
UKOTCF	United Kingdom Overseas Territories Conservation Forum
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

Glossary and Definitions

Acceptance and accession: see Ratification.

Country: When capitalized in this document, this word will refer to the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) of the European Union (EU). There are currently 21 OCTs: Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory (BAT), British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)[1], British Virgin Islands (BVI), Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas)[2], French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Territories (*Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises* – TAAF), Greenland, Mayotte[3], Montserrat, former Netherlands Antilles[4], New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Wallis and Futuna[5].

Local: This word is used in this report to refer to the level of each overseas entity, regardless of its status within the EU.

Overseas Country and Territory and Outermost Region[6]*:* OCTs refer to those entities which are not part of, but are associated with, the EU under Part IV of the Treaty of the European Union, distinct from ORs which are an integral part of the European Union under the Treaty of the European Union. These appellations are commonly used in this document to simplify the complex status of overseas entities in each EU Member State.

Ratification: States which signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) when it was open for signature must then proceed to ratify it, as signature of itself does not establish consent to be bound to an international treaty. This is why most State Parties to the Convention became Parties by ratification. States which have not signed a treaty during the time when it is open for signature can only accede to it, and thus become Parties by *accession*. In some States and organizations, the word *acceptance* is used in the place of *ratification*, but it has exactly the same legal effect.

Region/regional: In this document, the words *region* and *regional* (not capitalized) refer to geographic regions, e.g., the Caribbean or Oceania. When capitalized, the word *Region* will refer to those entities within EU Member States that have OR status. There are currently nine ORs: the Azores, the Canary Islands, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Madeira, Martinique and Reunion Island, plus Saint Barthélémy and Saint Martin that were formerly part of Guadeloupe and have recently acquired a separate status.

State: In this document, the word *State*, when capitalized, refers to independent sovereign States, including the Member States of the EU and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

1 On 20 December 2010, the Republic of Mauritius initiated proceedings against the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island under the dispute settlement provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);

2 A dispute exists between the Government of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

3 Mayotte will become a French department in 2011 and may consequently acquire Outermost Region status.

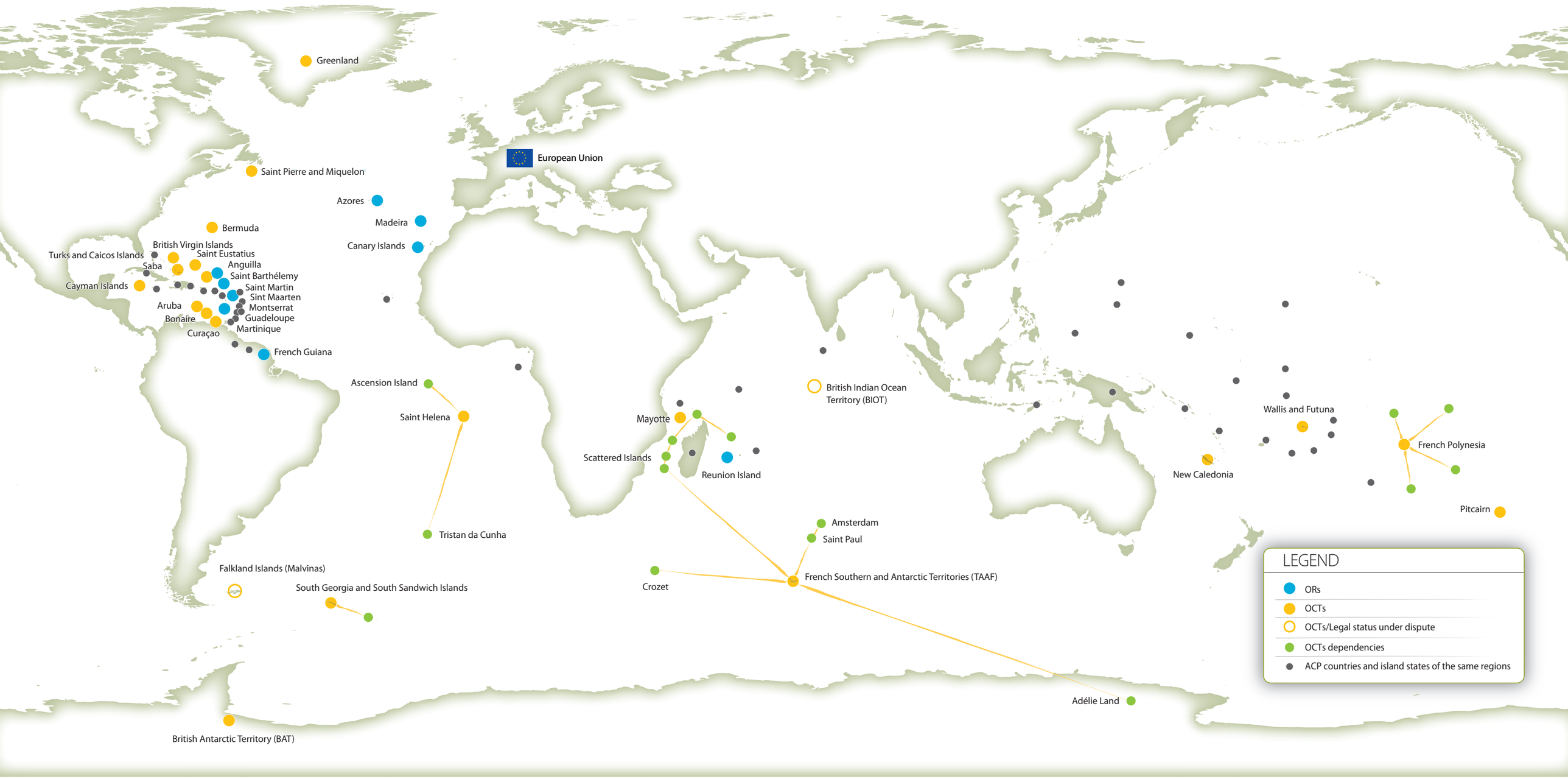
4 On 10 October 2010, the autonomous country of the Netherlands Antilles, which included Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Saint Eustatius and Sint Maarten, was dismantled. Curaçao and Sint Maarten have obtained the status of autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, an OCT status comparable to that of Aruba at present. Bonaire, Saba and Saint Eustatius, known as the BES Islands, have become part of the Netherlands as special municipalities and are likely to obtain the status of Outermost Region in the near future.

5 Although Gibraltar (UK) is part of the EU, it is not listed as an OR nor an OCT under EU treaties and therefore is not considered an overseas entity for the purpose of this study. It is considered by the UK as an Overseas Territory.

6 The term Overseas Territory (OT) is the accepted term in the UK to refer to that country's OCTs.

Europe Overseas

December 2010



1. Introduction

There are 30 overseas entities that are linked to six Member States of the EU: Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom (UK). Spread across all oceans and home to a unique diversity of species and ecosystems, these European ORs and OCTs are of crucial importance for biodiversity at a global scale. They are located in biodiversity hotspots[7] (Caribbean Islands, Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands, Mediterranean Basin, New Caledonia, Polynesia-Micronesia), in major wilderness areas (Guyana Shield), and in key regions for polar ecosystems and fish stocks such as Greenland, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (TAAF) and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands. Together, they host more than 20 percent of the world's coral reefs and lagoons, and a lot more species than mainland EU. For example, New Caledonia alone has about as many endemic species as the entire European continent, French Guiana includes an area of Amazon rainforest the size of Portugal, and the Chagos archipelago in the BIOT is home to the largest coral atoll in the world.

The CBD is the main global instrument to guide biodiversity conservation and management. Following the negotiation of a text under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) between 1988 and 1992, the Convention was opened for signature on 5 June 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It remained open for signature until 4 June 1993, by which time it had received 168 signatures, and it entered into force on 29 December 1993. With 193 State Parties, it is a broad global treaty that provides a comprehensive framework for the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

At its Tenth Conference of Parties (COP 10) in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, the Convention adopted a number of wide-ranging decisions, some of which are directly relevant to the EU overseas entities.

Because of the richness and value of their biological diversity, and because of the constitutional and institutional peculiarities of the overseas entities of the European Union, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) saw the need to conduct an in-depth review of the status of implementation of the CBD and of specific strategies and plans as part of CBD-determined National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) at national levels, for the purpose of:

- identifying the current status of the various legal and policy instruments, strategies, action plans and institutional frameworks for biodiversity conservation in the EU overseas entities;

- noting the extent to which these instruments have been and are being implemented, as part of national processes, and assessing the main factors and processes that support or alternatively hinder implementation;

- identifying the main lessons learned and documenting some of the best practices and exemplary cases of biodiversity conservation in the overseas entities;

- analysing the extent to which these instruments are consistent with, supportive of, and supported by the legislation, policies, strategies and institutional arrangements for biodiversity conservation that exist at four levels:

    - within the EU Member States of which the entities are part or to which they are associated;

    - within geographic regions (Arctic, Austral Ocean, Caribbean, Guiana Shield, Indian Ocean, Macaronesia, Oceania, South Atlantic Ocean);

    - within the European Union and its institutions;

7 See www.biodiversityhotspots.org for definition, background and description of all hotspots.

- at the global level, especially in relation to the CBD Programme of work on Island Biodiversity.

This work is part of the IUCN EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories Programme. It builds on IUCN's earlier efforts in support of biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change in the EU overseas entities, with the hosting (in partnership with the Regional Council of Reunion Island and the *Observatoire National sur les Effets du Réchauffement Climatique* (ONERC – National Observatory of the Effects of Global Warming (of France)) of the Conference on *The European Union and its Overseas Entities: Strategies to Counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss* held in Reunion Island in July 2008, which resulted in the publication of the Message from Reunion Island as well as a comprehensive report entitled *Climate Change and Biodiversity in the European Union Overseas Entities*[8]. This IUCN Programme, which is funded by the Government of France, aims to implement some of the 21 recommendations endorsed at the 2008 Reunion Island Conference. One of the results expected is the strengthening of, and the provision of support to, biodiversity strategies in these overseas entities, and in the geographic regions of which they are part.

This report was prepared by Dominique Benzaken (Coordinator, IUCN EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories Programme) and Yves Renard (Green Park Consultants GPC), and it has been informed primarily by national studies focusing on the status of implementation of the CBD and Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) in the overseas entities of France (authored by Aurélie Bocquet of the French National Committee for IUCN), the Netherlands (authored by Gerard van Buurt and Rob van den Bergh of CURCONSULT), Portugal and Spain (both authored by António Domingos Abreu, independent consultant), and the United Kingdom (authored by Gillian Cooper, independent consultant). It benefited as well from a regional analysis, also authored by Gillian Cooper, from a review of documents related to the implementation of the CBD in Denmark and Greenland, and from reviews of earlier drafts by experts and stakeholders. These studies and the preparation of the report were coordinated by Yves Renard.

This report is not an IUCN position paper. It is the product of a technical study aimed at providing information and recommendations to all relevant actors. It is based on a discussion paper prepared and distributed in advance of CBD COP 10, where it was presented and discussed. It was also submitted for review to the six EU Member States concerned, to the European Commission (EC), to the CBD Secretariat and to a wide range of academic and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and networks. Comments and suggestions were subsequently compiled and have been used in the preparation of the present document. IUCN expresses its gratitude to all those who took time to participate in these various discussions and consultations and to submit extremely valuable information, ideas and recommendations

8 Available in English, French and Spanish at www.iucn.org/publications.

2. CBD Implementation in EU Overseas Entities

2.1 CBD Commitments and Compliance in the EU Overseas Entities

The status of participation in, and application of, the CBD by the various entities varies according to the constitutional status of these entities, but the protocol of the Convention allows for voting representation only by signatory national and federal States of which overseas entities are part. The situation for the six countries can be summarized as follows:

Denmark: the Kingdom of Denmark became a State Party to the CBD by ratification (1993). The Convention applies fully to Greenland, an autonomous entity within the Kingdom and one of the EU's OCTs.

France: France became a State Party to the CBD by ratification (1994) and the Convention applies to all its overseas entities, some being ORs and others OCTs of the EU.

Netherlands: the Kingdom of the Netherlands became a State Party to the CBD, on behalf of the Netherlands, by acceptance (1994). The Convention came into force in Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles in June 1999.

Portugal: the Azores and Madeira are autonomous regions of Portugal and ORs of the EU, where the CBD fully applies by virtue of Portugal's ratification of the Convention (1993).

Spain: the Canary Islands constitute an autonomous region of Spain and an OR of the EU, where the CBD fully applies by virtue of Spain's ratification of the Convention (1993).

United Kingdom: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland signed the Convention (1992) on behalf of the Kingdom, including its Overseas Territories, but only three (the BVI, the Cayman Islands, and Saint Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island) were included, at their request, in the UK's ratification of the Convention (1994). Some other territories are interested in becoming part of the UK's ratification, but the process for doing so is unclear.

2.2 Biodiversity Planning in the Overseas Entities, Status and Responsibilities

Biodiversity planning in overseas entities is a combination of national and local level action. National-level strategies and action plans for biodiversity, and of the place of overseas entities in these strategies and plans, can be summarized as follows:

EU Member State	Overview of the status of biodiversity planning
Denmark	As an autonomous part of the Kingdom of Denmark, Greenland has separate planning and reporting arrangements with the CBD. A Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity in Greenland was adopted in 2009, and it is considered a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for the purposes of the CBD. The Fourth National Report on the Implementation of the CBD in Greenland was submitted in January 2010.
France	France has a National Biodiversity Strategy that applies to all its ORs and OCTs; it was adopted in 2004. The Strategy includes 11 sectoral plans, one of which is a sectoral plan for overseas entities, adopted in September 2006. The French ORs and OCTs are all covered by an Action Plan specifically dedicated to these overseas entities, and they have all developed an individual Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The Fourth National Report on the Implementation of the CBD in France was submitted in July 2009.

EU Member State	Overview of the status of biodiversity planning
Netherlands	The Netherlands have a Biodiversity Policy Programme for 2008–2011. It makes very little reference to the Dutch OCTs. The Dutch OCTs are not covered by the Dutch national strategy and action plan, they do not have a specific BAP at local level, but they have comprehensive local legislation at the level of the Countries (Aruba and the other islands within the former Netherlands Antilles). In 2004, the Netherlands Antilles formulated a Nature and Environmental Policy Plan for 2004–2007. The Fourth National Report on the Implementation of the CBD in the Netherlands was submitted in April 2010.
Portugal	Portugal formulated its National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity in 2001. The Strategy does not deal specifically with the autonomous regions of the Azores and Madeira, and these ORs do not have their own strategy or action plan. Each OR has a range of policy and legal instruments dealing with conservation and biodiversity. The Fourth National Report on the Implementation of the CBD in Portugal was submitted in 2010. It covers the two ORs.
Spain	Spain formulated its National Strategy for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in 2008. The Strategy covers the autonomous region of the Canary Islands, and this OR does not have its own strategy or action plan, but there is a range of local policy and legal instruments dealing with conservation and biodiversity. The Fourth National Report on the Implementation of the CBD in Spain was submitted in March 2009. It covers the Canary Islands.
United Kingdom	The UK developed its BAP in 1994, with an updated UK BAP produced in 2007 and called *Conserving Biodiversity – the UK Approach*. The BAP does not deal specifically with the UK Overseas Territories (UK OTs). In 2009, the UK released a UK Overseas Territories Biodiversity Strategy. A few individual OTs have their own biodiversity strategy or action plan (e.g., Bermuda, Cayman Islands and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)), even if they are not included in the UK's ratification of the CBD. All UK OTs have a range of policy and legal instruments dealing with conservation and biodiversity, and there is an Environment Charter that binds each of the OTs and the UK on some aspects of biodiversity conservation. The Fourth National Report on the Implementation of the CBD in the UK was submitted in May 2009. It makes mention of a few of the OTs, and provides very little detail on implementation.

There are also at least three cases where an overseas entity does not have an explicit biodiversity strategy or action plan, but a smaller geographic unit within that entity (Anegada in the BVI, Tenerife in the Canary Islands, and Tristan da Cunha) has taken the initiative to formulate its own strategy.

2.3 Main Actions Implemented

2.3.1 Policy and Legislation

Most EU overseas entities have put in place some level of policy and legislation to support conservation activities. In some cases, these actions are guided by an overall policy at the national level or in some cases at the local level. One critical issue is the harmonization of these plans (between the local and national) and, in most ORs and OCTs, some steps have been taken in recent years to integrate policies.

In Aruba and in the former Netherlands Antilles, there is legislation that provides a policy framework for nature conservation and this stipulates that all islands should have a nature policy plan. However, only one of the five islands of the former Netherlands Antilles (Bonaire) has developed such a plan, and it is now out of date.

In France, where there is a biodiversity strategy for the overseas entities as a whole as well as one for each entity, the recent policy review and formulation process known as *Grenelle de l'Environnement* (Environment Round Table, 2007) has considered issues related to the overseas entities and resulted in the promulgation of two important pieces of legislation (2009 and 2010) that have direct relevance to biodiversity. The conclusions of these consultations have been taken into account in the formulation of updated versions of the Action Plans for 2009–2010, including the Action Plan for the overseas entities.

In 2009 the UK developed a strategy for biodiversity conservation in the UK OTs. The strategy provides an overview of the UK government's commitments to the

OTs and has set in train a number of changes in the institutional arrangements to deliver this strategy. Each of the UK OTs has some kind of local plan which provides a framework for biodiversity conservation. A number of UK OTs are also in the process of modernizing their conservation legislation (e.g., BVI and Cayman Islands) to provide conservation departments with additional powers and suitable institutional arrangements but it remains to be seen if these will be passed by their respective administrations.

In the Macaronesian islands of the Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira, there is no local plan but there is adequate local legislation for the conservation of biodiversity, and significant progress has been made in recent years to strengthen and update the legal instruments.

In many cases, the main issue is not the absence of policy or legislation, but the lack of integration between biodiversity strategies and plans on the one hand and other policy and legal instruments on the other. While this is not an issue specific to Europe overseas, its impact is exacerbated by distance from the EU Member State, by capacity issues, and by a weak articulation between the various levels of authority and management, especially in the OCTs.

2.3.2 Protected Areas

Steady progress has been made towards designation and management of protected areas. Both the French ORs and OCTs and the UK OTs have significantly increased their surface areas under protection (with the creation of the Chagos Marine Reserve in the BIOT and the National Parks of Reunion Island and French Guiana among the most remarkable recent developments), and a number of these areas have been given a status of global significance such as World Heritage Sites and Ramsar Sites (for example the Lagoons of New Caledonia and the Reunion Island World Heritage Sites). In France, work is underway to develop a new strategy for protected areas which will identify gaps and priorities for conservation; this strategy is for the time being limited to metropolitan France, but it will at a later stage be extended to ORs and OCTs, as soon as applicable criteria and methodologies have been finalized. The Netherlands OCTs also have newly established protected areas in the marine environment, others are planned and Aruba recently established a terrestrial park. The Spanish and Portuguese ORs are well linked in with the national and European park systems and also have Biosphere Reserves (three in the Azores, one at the application stage in Madeira and four in the Canary Islands). These Biosphere Reserves are considered excellent examples of how to integrate social, cultural and natural aspects in protected areas. In France, while there is a national strategy on protected areas, it does not however include the overseas entities.

Effective management of existing protected areas, largely as a result of insufficient or insecure funding, remains a challenge for a number of overseas entities, even for those that have established systems to become self sustaining through user fees and dive tags.

2.3.3 Other Conservation Programmes

Species recovery

A number of islands have established species recovery plans, either as part of recent BAP processes or as collaborative projects between local NGOs, governmental agencies and international NGOs. France now has national plans of action for four overseas fauna species in critical danger of extinction, and for four flora species (*Zanthoxylum heterophyllum* and *Polyscias aemiliguineae* in Reunion Island, and *Bactris nancibencis* and *Astrocaryum minus* in French Guiana). There is also a plan of action for marine turtle conservation in French Guiana, Guadeloupe and Martinique. Madeira and the Azores, together with the Canary Islands, have developed joint initiatives promoting the knowledge of the conservation status of the endemic and indigenous biodiversity as well as identifying common strategies for managing Macaronesian biodiversity. In the UK's South Atlantic OTs, an action plan has been developed for each OT to identify the range of requirements to be met under the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels to enhance the protection and conservation of these endangered birds.

Invasive alien species

Awareness of invasive alien species (IAS) in the Caribbean ORs and OCTs (Dutch, French and UK)

has increased in recent years, as illustrated by current efforts to control the lionfish invasion in the near-shore marine environment. Recently developed BAPs (for example, those of the Cayman Islands and most French ORs and OCTs) and regional programmes (such as the South Atlantic Invasive Species Programme (SAISP) implemented by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in collaboration with UK OT governments in the area and the Pacific Invasive Initiative (PII)) have paid special attention to identifying invasive species population numbers, pathways and methods of control. All French ORs and OCTs have developed local IAS strategies. Macaronesian ORs have developed a "Top 100" list of the invasive fauna and flora; this is a joint initiative to identify the pathways for the most relevant alien invasive species supported by robust scientific information. Management actions are now in place with positive results.

Climate Change

This issue has been given higher priority in the last few years, with the formulation of a number of adaptation programmes, and with some initiatives looking specifically at the biodiversity dimension of climate change. In Madeira and the Canary Islands, for example, Project Bioclimac, which started in 2010, aims to identify the impacts of climate change in the germination processes and genetic variability of selected plant species of Macaronesia. In the Caribbean, the UK OTs are now formally part of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), which looks at adaptation measures and disseminates information on climate change research and impacts. France is developing its National Adaptation Plan which includes Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Reunion Island but not the OCTs, as competency for developing such plans rests with the OCTs themselves. French Polynesia has conducted a baseline study on the impacts of climate change.

Institutional development and capacity building

Within the last five years, institutional changes in the EU Member States have been positive towards support to conservation and natural resource management, although in many cases this was long overdue and followed continuous advocacy by civil society to encourage EU Member State support to their overseas entities.

At a local level the picture is very mixed. Some conservation agencies are well resourced and have large numbers of staff while others are severely under-staffed. Smaller OCTs tend to have the biggest challenge. For example, in the former Netherlands Antilles, the government organization in charge of nature and the environment depends on only a limited number of qualified staff, and capacity building and transfer of institutional knowledge is a concern. By contrast, in the Portuguese ORs there has been a significant investment in the public sector over the last two decades and both Regions have established research departments and laboratory facilities covering the most important areas of biodiversity. However, a lack of clear institutional responsibilities and insufficient allocation of resources to support the implementation of the proposed actions throughout the OCTs has been noted as a concern.

A number of regional capacity-building projects have been implemented that have benefited the overseas entities, such as the exchange programme for rangers in the Dutch Caribbean Islands sponsored by the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) and a training programme for rangers through an extensive apprenticeship arrangement implemented by a local organization, Stinapa Bonaire. In the Caribbean, a project to enhance the capacity of 10 civil society organizations is being implemented by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in five overseas entities of the UK, with the objective of directly supporting the implementation of the CBD as well as strengthening civil society participation in biodiversity conservation.

2.3.4 Research

A number of important conservation programmes and research initiatives have been undertaken that fulfil the CBD Programme of work on Island Biodiversity. These initiatives range from species inventories, species population monitoring, collection of germplasm, seed banks, and mapping and ecosystem classification. Much of this work has been collaborative between international NGOs, EU Member State agencies, the European Commission, academic institutions and local NGOs and government departments.

Research capacity varies greatly between the various entities. Most ORs, and some of the larger OCTs such

as Greenland or New Caledonia, benefit from the presence of branches or units of national research institutions, as well as local universities and research bodies. In the smaller and more isolated OCTs, research is carried out primarily by external institutions, including specialized departments of universities in the EU Member State, with little or no permanent capacity at the local level.

2.3.5 Financing

With the changes and improvements in the institutional arrangements mentioned above have come positive changes to the financing arrangements, but funding remains a critical issue and resources allocated to conservation in overseas entities are clearly not proportionate to the importance and richness of their biodiversity. In France, the recent *Grenelle de l'Environnement* process has allowed for the creation of a funding arrangement for the implementation of local action plans. In the UK, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has provided funding for improved institutional arrangements from 2007 to support OCTs and has earmarked £1.5 million from its Darwin Initiative for biodiversity projects in UK OTs. However, it remains a distinct feature of biodiversity planning and management in overseas entities that the strategies and plans are seldom supported by dedicated funding allocations.

It was not possible from this study to ascertain with any accuracy what overall investment is currently made in biodiversity conservation and climate change in EU overseas entities. Furthermore, there are at this stage no comprehensive economic analyses of biodiversity conservation in EU overseas entities to guide biodiversity policy and future investment decisions.

OCTs, with delegated competence for environmental matters from the EU Member State they are part of, are responsible for budget allocations to the environment. The amount of funding available depends on the income of the countries or territories from all sources, but it can be estimated that local governments allocate less than one percent of their budget to the staffing and work of their conservation departments. In the case of small OCTs with limited income and capacity, NGOs have been able to bring in external funds, although their pool of sources is very limited due to their status as EU OCTs. These funds have also tended to be small, often provided as part of regional programmes. Those with a protected area management mandate have also established systems to charge user fees that support conservation and staffing needs, as in the cases of the BVI or the former Netherlands Antilles.

2.4 Main Results Obtained

Appendix 8 presents an overview of the main results obtained in and by overseas entities in the conservation and management of biodiversity. Looking back at the overall objectives of the CBD,[9] and keeping in mind the diversity of situations and the frequent lack of evidence on the impacts of conservation action, these results can be very roughly summarized and assessed as follows.

Very significant progress has been made in the conservation of ecosystems in the EU overseas entities. Large portions of these territories are under protection status, with major protected areas having recently been created (French Guiana, BIOT, Reunion Island), with several entities having developed comprehensive protected area systems and with many sites having been designated under an international instrument (e.g., Ramsar or World Heritage Conventions). The priority now lies in enhancing the effectiveness of management in existing protected areas, in filling the gaps in coverage by ensuring that all ecosystems are properly represented in the protected area systems of the various entities, and in building stronger networks among protected area management agencies in overseas entities and in the geographic regions of which they are part. These achievements and future protected area development, both terrestrial and marine, will have to be placed in the context of the CBD Aichi biodiversity target 11 for protected areas by 2020.

While there have been some successes in species

9 These objectives are stated as: "the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding".

conservation, the populations of many taxonomic groups continue to decline, and the status of most threatened species has not improved. The main positive results have been achieved within the boundaries of protected areas, but a significant proportion of native and endemic species remains endangered, with populations still in decline. Habitat destruction (as a result of urbanization, coastal development, poor watershed management, mining, and inadequate development control), pollution and IAS remain the main threats to species conservation in most overseas entities. In territories where hunting is an important activity, sustainable practices have been introduced with success.

The conservation of genetic diversity is one area that receives insufficient attention. While several entities, particularly the ORs with important local research capacity, have programmes in this field, there is still insufficient awareness in most ORs and OCTs of the need to maintain the genetic diversity of crops, livestock and other valuable species, and of the local knowledge associated with these. This is one area where the sharing of knowledge and experience between overseas entities could be highly beneficial.

While there remain some areas of concern, sustainable use and consumption has been successfully promoted in most of the overseas entities. This is particularly the case in the fisheries sector, with a number of active programmes and effective measures aimed at making commercially important fisheries sustainable. In the islands where tourism is a major economic sector, the link between conservation and a successful and durable industry is now understood and appreciated by the large majority of actors. In places where traditional uses of wildlife remain important, good progress has been made in making hunting and harvesting sustainable.

While it is too early to assess the impacts of these actions, significant efforts are being made to address the challenges that climate change poses to island biodiversity. Several overseas entities are or will soon be developing action plans for adaptation to climate change, and considerations related to climate change are being incorporated into the management of protected areas in several entities. Most of the actors involved in biodiversity conservation in the EU overseas entities now recognize the need to build ecosystem resilience, as an instrument of adaptation to stress, including that coming from climate change.

Issues of rights, equitable access to resources and sharing of benefits have only recently been considered in those entities where it is most relevant, but their importance is now better recognized. This is an area that will clearly receive increased attention in the near future, especially in light of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) adopted at CBD COP 10 and the requirements this imposes on Parties. In some of the entities, new management instruments, including legislation and management plans for protected areas, give explicit consideration to these issues.

Funding levels and mechanisms remain generally insufficient, especially when one considers the richness and global significance of biodiversity in the EU overseas entities. There are, of course, important investments being made in conservation, but these are still low when compared to the needs. Existing funding arrangements also create some obstacles to effective conservation, because they often favour short-term projects over more permanent budget allocations, and because they do not facilitate regional initiatives that involve both overseas entities and their independent neighbours.

3. Collaboration and Linkages in Support of CBD and NBSAP Implementation in the EU Overseas Entities

3.1 Between the Overseas Entities and the CBD

The status of the overseas entities as sub-national and/or local authorities in relation to the Parties to the CBD is clear and well defined in all but two instances:

- those OTs of the UK that have not been included in the ratification of the CBD by the UK (1994);
- the Dutch Caribbean.

There is no direct relationship between the overseas entities and the CBD, because the competence for international affairs is the responsibility of the EU Member States as Parties to the Convention. Apart from a few instances, institutions in these entities are not part of national delegations at COPs and other international meetings, and regional activities of the CBD Secretariat do not include the EU overseas entities in those geographic regions. For example, there was no representation of the overseas entities from those geographic regions in the Regional and Sub-Regional Capacity-Development Workshops on Implementing NBSAPs and Mainstreaming Biodiversity that were held in and for the Caribbean (November 2008) and the Pacific (February 2009) at the initiative of the CBD Secretariat. There was however one instance where the Capacity Building on Biodiversity and Impact Assessment (CBBIA) project of the CBD Secretariat provided support to a training activity organized by the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF) in October 2006. Occasionally, and in close coordination with their respective national governments, entities have on various occasions in the past contributed to and participated in workshops and meetings of the Convention.

3.2 Between the Overseas Entities and Institutions In the EU Member States

While ORs have a status identical to that of other regions of Europe, and are as such served by national institutions in the same way as other regions of EU Member States, there are many actors in the Outermost Regions who feel that they are at times forgotten or overlooked by national policies and programmes, while others emphasize the need for these regions to articulate better their needs and priorities. Meanwhile, institutional arrangements between EU Member States and the OCTs in the field of biodiversity are even more complex, arising from various degrees of autonomy and responsibility for environment matters. There are instances where the allocation of responsibility between national agencies responsible for biodiversity and those responsible for overseas entities are unclear, with gaps or overlaps in mandates. There are also instances of duplication of mandates or lack of clarity in allocation of responsibilities between the national agencies at the level of the EU Member State and the agencies of the local government in the OCT.

One of the most positive factors in support of biodiversity conservation and management in the EU overseas entities is the existence and work of support mechanisms, such as the French National Committee for IUCN in the case of France, the Dutch National Committee for IUCN and its collaboration with the DCNA in the case of the Netherlands, and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) as well as the UKOTCF in the case of the UK. These institutions play a critical role in structuring and guiding the relationship between the overseas entities and the national agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, helping and encouraging these agencies to approach matters related to the overseas entities in a comprehensive fashion.

3.3 Between and Among Overseas Entities[10]

There is only one functional mechanism that has been set up to promote collaboration between all or most of the overseas entities of the European Union in the field of biodiversity. *Networking tropical and subtropical biodiversity research in outermost regions and territories of Europe in support of sustainable development (Net-Biome),* is an innovative institutional arrangement, a consortium of 11 partners representing regional or territorial bodies from the five EU Member States that are concerned with European tropical overseas territories and that finance and/or manage research activities. It began in 2007, and is funded by the European Union. It has recently launched its first call for trans-national and trans-regional research projects, which will fund projects on biodiversity management in support of sustainable development in the tropical and subtropical ORs and OCTs of Europe.

The *Bioverseas Initiative for biodiversity and environment,* set up a few years ago by a group of umbrella conservation bodies, sought to provide EU overseas entities with a more coordinated approach to EU institutions and to perform a conservation advocacy role from a civil society perspective. It has been inactive for a while, but there are organizations that are keen to reconvene it.

There are no formalized mechanisms specifically dedicated to facilitating collaboration among the overseas entities of two or more EU Member States in the field of biodiversity in any of the geographic regions where overseas entities are located, but agencies and representatives of ORs and OCTs have opportunities to meet and exchange experiences and views in various fora organized by the EU institutions.

The national institutions and networks mentioned above (Dutch and French National Committees for IUCN, JNCC, UKOTCF, DCNA) all also play a facilitating role in communication and collaboration between organizations in overseas entities within countries (e.g., JNCC and UKOTCF for the UK OTs).

Following a recommendation from the Message of Reunion Island, an EU overseas entities mechanism/ platform will be established, as part of the IUCN Programme on EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories, to provide a forum for dialogue and exchange between EU overseas entities actors. The programme aims among other things to enhance awareness and integration of EU overseas entities biodiversity and climate change issues in EU regional and international policies and programmes.[11]

Mention should also be made of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA), which was created at the first OCT Ministerial Conference in November 2000. It brings together OCTs with representation in Brussels and includes the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), French Polynesia, Greenland, the former Netherlands Antilles, and Saint Pierre and Miquelon. It was set up to provide a forum for dialogue and exchange of information and best practices, advise governments in the OCTs and the related EU Member States, and develop effective working relationships, as a group, with the EU institutions, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and its Secretariat, and other relevant international, multilateral and regional organizations and institutions. Some of its work is relevant to biodiversity.

3.4 Between the Overseas Entities and Their Geographic Regions

In geographic regions, there are complex landscapes of decision-making bodies and mechanisms at a range of levels. Generally, the participation of, and more so the benefit to, overseas entities in these bodies and mechanisms are patchy.

The patterns of regional participation typically reflect the geopolitical landscape of each region and the

10 It is also worth mentioning the mechanisms that exist to promote collaboration among overseas entities within an EU Member State, such as: the DCNA, which brings together protected area management agencies in the six islands concerned; the Research and Training Group established in 2008 under the auspices of the JNCC, with the participation of all UK OTs; or the French Initiative for Coral Reefs (Initiative française pour les récifs coralliens (IFRECOR)), a platform bringing together national and local agencies involved in coral reef research, conservation and management in France, for the purpose of sharing experiences and building capacity.

11 The Message from Reunion Island (the outcome of the Reunion Island conference convened by IUCN, the Government of France, the Regional Council of Reunion Island and ONERC in July 2008) is the first strategic document providing an integrated approach to biodiversity and climate change in EU overseas entities, with recommendations for all actors including governments, the EU and civil society.

unique status of overseas entities. Different overseas entities groupings participate in various bodies and there are only a few amongst the plethora of regional bodies in which they all participate alongside the independent States (noticeable exceptions are the Arctic Council, the Association of Caribbean States and the Regional Activity Centre of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Caribbean, as well as the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific, in particular the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (PREP)). In several instances, the regional mechanisms and groupings reflect linguistic and former colonial groupings and still fail to adopt an ecosystem-wide approach and to promote broadly inclusive regional integration. In addition, overseas entities are not formally represented in UN regional meetings such as those of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), where they are represented by the EU Member State, but can be part of that State delegation.

There are a number of constraints to the involvement of overseas entities in regional mechanisms, including structural obstacles to their participation in meetings and programmes, a perception of limited benefits to be gained from participation, and a frequent disconnect between policy and implementation, with different funding mechanisms in support of policy development and programme implementation between SIDS and overseas entities. Overseas entities have strong links to the respective EU States, and in many cases this has suppressed the need for regional integration. Language barriers and geographic isolation are additional factors that prevent regional integration.

While there are a number of constraints to the participation of EU overseas entities in regional processes, there are also significant opportunities, building on the need for ecosystem-wide perspectives and for joint efforts to address common issues and needs. A number of entities have good technical expertise in biodiversity and climate change-related areas due to their close links to the EU Member State, and these links could be made available and could form the basis for closer collaboration and integration with their regional neighbours, as is the case in some projects supported by the European Commission through the INTERREG programme. By the same token, ORs and OCTs have a lot to learn from their regional neighbours, for example on decentralized management of natural resources such as community-based and participatory approaches, and on linkages between biodiversity conservation, livelihoods and socio-economic development. A summary of the regional analysis can be found at Appendix 7.

3.5 Between the Overseas Entities and the EU Institutions

The European Union recognizes two types of overseas entities, the ORs which are an integral part of the European Union and where the Directives of the European Commission apply, and the OCTs which are not part of the European Union but benefit from an association with the EU under part IV of the Treaty of the Union, where European Commission Directives do not apply. The OCTs qualify for European Development Fund (EDF) grants.

The relationship between overseas entities and EU institutions is complex. EU policies and programmes for biodiversity and climate change are administered by the Commission's Directorate-General (DG) Environment and the DG for Climate Action, whilst policies and programmes targeted at ORs and OCTs are administered by the DG for Regional Policy and the DG for Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid respectively, making coordination and integration essential.

Dedicated EU policies and programmes for ORs and OCTs have placed limited emphasis on nature conservation to date, whilst policies and programmes for biodiversity and climate change have not necessary prioritized EU overseas entities, despite their significant contribution to the biodiversity of Europe. The basis for the action of EU Member States to safeguard habitats and species is provided by the EU Birds and Habitats Directives (Nature Directives). Action to meet the targets of the Nature Directives is funded through the financial instrument known as LIFE+, which is currently under review.

The Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST) recently announced by the EC at the CBD COP 10, which foresees two million Euros for the implementation

of pilot projects in 2011, is a unique opportunity to consider long-term needs and investment in Europe overseas. This comes at a time when the CBD Secretariat is reviewing its Programme of work on Island Biodiversity to be presented to the CBD COP 11 in 2012.

The review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy post-2010 and other biodiversity-related EU policies currently underway may also provide opportunities to ensure adequate consideration of the biodiversity of EU ORs and OCTs in future EU programmes.

Following the 2008 Communiqué *Outermost regions: an advantage for Europe*, the launch of the policy document known as *Europe 2020* and the development of an EU 2020 strategy, there is a recognition of the place of ORs in Europe's future policies and programmes. The potentialities of ORs, including their environmental assets as wealth opportunities and benefits to the European Union, as well as the specific challenges they face, are informing the review of EU regional policies post-2013. An example of how these new approaches might be implemented in practice is the *Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of France, Spain, Portugal and the Presidents of ORs of Canary Islands, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Madeira, Martinique and Reunion (May 2010)* for a renewed vision of the European Strategy for ORs. The review of the Association Decision, which governs the relationship between the EU and OCTs under the Treaty of Lisbon, is also recasting that relationship from a development perspective towards a partnership approach.

These developments may create opportunities for greater consideration of biodiversity and climate change in future EU policies, and for collaboration between EU Member States, ORs and OCTs, and EU institutions, including at the regional level.

3.6 Between Overseas Entities and Global Networks

Because the large majority of the EU overseas entities are islands, there are obvious opportunities for their participation in global island networks. They cannot however be formally involved in the global Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which is the main channel though which the voice of small islands can be heard in UN processes, as AOSIS membership is limited to independent States. The main opportunities for the involvement of EU overseas entities at the global level, other than through their EU Member State, are provided through the Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA) or by the IUCN Global Programmes (Global Islands Programme and Programme on EU overseas entities), the latter acting as a source of support and advocacy. ORs and the OCTs could also play a very useful role in building bridges between the EU, AOSIS and other actors in international fora.

4. Critical Issues

While the Convention on Biological Diversity legally applies to most of the overseas entities attached to EU Member States, these States do not fully discharge their responsibilities towards the Convention in relation to the biological diversity of their overseas entities and there are, as a result, large and important areas of biological diversity that potentially are left without the benefit of adequate policies and programmes. This can be attributed to five main gaps.

4.1 Constitutional and Institutional Gap

Most EU overseas entities are included in the ratification of the Convention by the EU Member State they are attached to, and hence are implicitly covered by the provisions of the Convention. There are, however, cases where ratification has not been extended to all OCTs. In the case of the United Kingdom, only three OTs chose to be included when the UK ratified the Convention.

4.2 Policy Gap

Even when ratification fully applies to the overseas entities, the instruments put in place by the EU Member State (NBSAPs and National Reports) do not always provide adequate coverage of the overseas entities. This manifests itself principally at three levels: (a) in the relationship between the EU Member State and its overseas entities, as national policies and plans are in several instances not translated at local level or competency is delegated; (b) within geographic regions, because overseas entities do not fully participate in regional processes and institutions; and (c) within the overseas entities themselves, because the frequent absence of biodiversity policy and planning instruments means that biodiversity considerations and objectives are not mainstreamed in local development processes. In cases where there is an instrument of ratification that is specific to the overseas entity (i.e., Aruba, Netherlands Antilles, BVI, Cayman Islands, and Saint Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island), there is no channel of communication and reporting between the overseas entity and the CBD, and no effort is being made to ensure that strategic and action planning as well as reporting are done in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

4.3 Resource Gap

This is largely the product of the constitutional, institutional and policy gaps mentioned above. Specific factors responsible for the inadequate and insufficient financing of biodiversity conservation in overseas entities include: (a) limited priority given to, and capacity available for, investment at the local level in biodiversity conservation, particularly in OCTs; (b) in some instances, insufficient investment by the EU Member State to support the development and implementation of biodiversity action plans and equivalent; (c) the ineligibility of ORs and OCTs to international funding assistance specifically available for the implementation of the CBD, as they are not Parties to the Convention; (d) the conditions of access by OCTs to EU funding, and the fact that the significant EU structural funds made available to the ORs do not place much emphasis on biodiversity; and (e) limited access to private and public development assistance, because of the status of association with the EU. There is therefore very little coherence between the various funding mechanisms, and by default an excessive reliance on scarce local resources for biodiversity conservation. The small size of institutions and the lack of a critical mass of expertise make it also particularly difficult to access large-scale funding such as that available from the European Commission.

4.4 Information and Knowledge Gap

A good knowledge base, with adequate, accurate and available information, is critically needed to inform policy formulation, support implementation, and monitor progress and effectiveness. The situation in EU overseas entities is uneven, with some benefiting from the presence and work of highly competent local and national research

institutions, while others – especially the smaller and more isolated OCTs – suffer from weak capacity and insufficient activity in this field.

4.5 Implementation Gap

The disconnect between planning and implementation, which has been identified as a challenge for CBD and NBSAP implementation in many countries, is, in the case of overseas entities, often exacerbated by physical distance and remoteness from the EU Member State. Limited capacity and guidance at the local level, the absence of dedicated funding, and more generally the lack of a local integrated biodiversity strategy, further undermine implementation effectiveness.

Because of their peculiar status, the OCTs are not eligible for the same kind of technical and financial support as their geographic neighbours, even when their needs and conditions are very similar. This represents one of the main practical obstacles to genuine and effective cooperation between EU overseas entities and independent countries of their respective regions.

Because of their association with an EU Member State, the OCTs do not participate in the various processes relevant to SIDS and cannot access funding from multilateral or bilateral development agencies such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which is the financial mechanism of the CBD. OCTs, as territories of developed countries that are parties to the CBD, should have the necessary resources to discharge their delegated responsibilities, but this is not the case with all OCTs, in particular small OCTs with a limited economic base and capacity. An unintended consequence of different funding regimes within one region is an overall lack of participation in regional policies and programmes on biodiversity and climate change unless complementary funding is forthcoming from alternative sources including the EU Member State, the EU or internal revenue.

Access to EU development cooperation funds for OCTs has been limited compared to that available to their SIDS counterparts. In addition, the traditional development cooperation approach to OCTs has not always been appropriate to their circumstances.

As noted above, the review of the EU Association Decision, which governs the relationship between the EU and OCTs, might lead to a more integrated and arguably equitable relationship with regards to biodiversity policy development and practice in OCTs, the EU and globally.

While a reform of funding mechanisms at the EU level could help address these issues, it is also up to the actors in these regions to develop complementary initiatives that allow them to collaborate even when using distinct sources of financial and technical support.

In spite of these constraints, the overseas entities have been able to make remarkable progress towards the achievement of the goals and targets of the CBD Programme of work on Island Biodiversity, and their achievements need to be better recognized and their efforts more effectively supported.

This is particularly true in the case of the OCTs, which find themselves in a peculiar situation in relation to the CBD and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), but have in several instances achieved more than the EU Member State of which they are part, with comprehensive legislation, integrated systems of protected areas and broad awareness programmes. This contribution is made more critical and strategic at the regional level, as many overseas entities share very similar challenges and circumstances with neighbouring developing countries.

While it is clear that much has been and is being achieved in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the EU overseas entities, the absence of explicit local strategies and action plans aligned to and consistent with the CBD creates a number of challenges and exacerbates a number of issues that are detrimental to effective conservation and management of the biological diversity of these entities, especially because:

- in the absence of comprehensive locally driven strategies, too little attention is being paid to the need for integrating and mainstreaming conservation in development planning, and conservation is approached as a distinct sector, with most of the efforts being concentrated on classical instruments such as protected areas;

- even when significant progress is being made in protected area planning and management, it is rarely based on a systematic and strategic approach to

maintaining representative ecosystems and rarely takes into account predicted climate change impacts;

- less attention is therefore being paid to important aspects and objectives that are important in the Convention but where limited experience and capacity exists, such as *ex-situ* conservation, the protection of traditional knowledge, the conservation of genetic diversity or conditions of access to resources and sharing of benefits;

- also, in the absence of explicit strategies, there is no priority-setting mechanism and effective consultation process, and efforts are more collections of separate activities than well designed and comprehensive programmes aimed at tackling priority issues in a strategic manner;

- the lack of a strategic framework is also often responsible for funding constraints, as there are less opportunities to seek resources specifically for the purpose of biodiversity management, and there are no clear investment priorities;

- finally, well designed strategies provide useful monitoring and evaluation frameworks. The overseas entities that do not have explicit biodiversity strategies and/or action plans are less able to monitor progress and adapt management practices, actions and investments to changing circumstances.

Even when strategies and action plans exist, they often present weaknesses:

- there is limited or no funding allocation specifically dedicated to a BAP, and there are insufficient financial commitments made by the national or local agencies;

- some of the existing BAPs are more a collection of actions than real strategies;

- in some cases the local BAPs were actually written on the basis of pre-existing actions, and did not add much value to the on-going work of national and local agencies;

- the processes used in the development of local plans and strategies are often locally perceived as imposed by the national agencies and do not allow for effective participation and a sense of ownership by local actors.

In the absence of a strategy developed and owned by institutions in the overseas entity, the requirement of compliance with the CBD is either not recognized, or it is perceived as top-down and externally driven.

Many important actors in conservation and sustainable development in the overseas entities are remarkably unaware of the CBD and its provisions, and are therefore not necessarily committed to national policies and actions that would contribute to meeting its overall objectives as well as the goals and targets of its relevant programmes of work. And when the CBD is known, it is unfortunately too often seen as the source of an imposed framework, not as an opportunity to contribute strategically to local and global objectives.

Efficiency and effectiveness in conservation and management of biological diversity in the overseas entities, and especially in the OCTs, are hampered by the complexity of institutional arrangements at the central level.

While this observation does not apply to the ORs, because they have an institutional framework that is almost identical to that of other parts of the EU Member State to which they belong, the situation is far more complex and complicated for the OCTs, because of cases of overlapping responsibilities between the various levels of governance.

While there are a few positive examples of collaboration and synergies within geographic regions, overseas entities remain generally isolated from their geographic regions, and this is detrimental to effective implementation of the CBD in the overseas entities and in these geographic regions.

Regional cooperation should be perceived, by all actors, as both a responsibility and an opportunity. It is the responsibility of any State present in a geographic region to ensure that conservation is achieved, as effectively and efficiently as possible, in that region, and therefore to allow for the mobilization of all available resources and for the adoption of an ecosystem-based approach to management. Regional cooperation must also be seen an opportunity, for all actors, to share and benefit from their respective skills and resources, and build common platforms. There is therefore a need for increased collaboration between ORs and OCTs in the various geographic regions, as well as increased participation of the entities in regional institutions and programmes. At present, this responsibility is not properly assumed, and an opportunity is regrettably being missed.

5. Principles to Guide Future Action

In light of the significant progress made at national and local levels in advancing biodiversity conservation and in placing these efforts within the framework of the CBD, and taking into account the gaps and challenges identified above, there are many opportunities to address outstanding issues and enhance the effectiveness of conservation initiatives in the EU overseas entities. The planned review of the CBD's Programme of work on Island Biodiversity over the period 2010–2012 provides an important opportunity to address the issues that have prevented the full participation of EU overseas entities in global conservation agreements, and to facilitate the development of innovative mechanisms that would allow these entities to benefit fully from, and contribute effectively to, these processes.

A number of guiding principles should therefore be considered:

- ORs and OCTs are important to global biodiversity and their participation alongside EU Member States and SIDS as well as neighbouring countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in regions of high biodiversity is critical to achieve the global goals of the CBD;

- because of their association with the EU and their presence in various geographic regions, the ORs and OCTs can play a very special and critical role in regional and global processes, and can help in building linkages, for example between the EU and AOSIS in international fora;

- in light of the global significance of their biodiversity, conservation and adaptation to climate change in the EU overseas entities should be approached as a shared responsibility between the CBD, the EU, other international organizations and instruments, EU Member States, and regional and local actors to ensure global commitments to halt biodiversity loss in those entities are met in the CBD post-2010; this requires greater collaboration at EU level between EU Member States, ORs and OCTs, and EU institutions;

- ORs and OCTs bring a unique experience in biodiversity conservation which can be shared and enhanced, particularly at the regional level, building on existing CBD and other processes, and acknowledging the need for flexible mechanisms;

- the experience of the EU overseas entities, which have in many instances achieved significant progress in spite of the absence of a comprehensive policy framework, confirms the value of local initiative and of decentralized and locally-driven processes, because they enhance effectiveness, build a sense of ownership, and promote sustainability;

- in contexts such as those of the ORs and OCTs, biodiversity takes a special value and significance, as the basis for economic development, but also as a key element of local and regional identity and patrimony, and should be promoted as such;

- an ecosystem-based approach to biodiversity conservation issues (e.g., IAS, protection of marine biodiversity), as advocated by the CBD, can only be effective if cooperative mechanisms bringing together all actors are in place to address them. Cooperation on regional matters among ORs and OCTs, their EU Member States and their geographic regions is therefore essential;

- there is a continued need for awareness:

    - by ORs and OCTs, of the value of their biological diversity and the benefit of placing their efforts within the global framework offered by the CBD;

    - by EU Member States, of the value of biological diversity in ORs and OCTs, and of their responsibility to ensure the conservation of biodiversity, within the framework of the CBD;

    - by the EU institutions, of the role they can and should play in supporting biodiversity conservation in overseas entities, and of the

need for appropriate and effective legal and financing instruments;

- by all Parties to the CBD, and the CBD Secretariat, of the imperative to incorporate fully the EU overseas entities within the programmes of work and the various mechanisms put in place by the Convention;

- biodiversity conservation and management require a good knowledge base to inform decision making, identify gaps and address future needs, with information needed in a number of critical domains, including policy (existing instruments and policy tools), biodiversity status (data sources, statistics and maps), issues and topics (threats, trends, evaluation of impacts including economic analyses), current and planned programmes and activities (strategies, plans, research) and capacities (institutions, knowledge and skills).

6. Recommendations

6.1 Recommendations in Relation to EU Institutions

In light of the scope and impact of EU biodiversity policies, of the fact that many of these policies are relevant and applicable to ORs and OCTs and of the recommendations from the Message from Reunion Island, the EU and its institutions, especially the EC, should consider the establishment of an integrated policy framework for EU overseas entities and should play a central role in ensuring relevance and coherence between EU policies and the CBD's post-2010 revised and updated strategic plan.

Specifically, the EU and its institutions are encouraged to:

- ensure that they give due attention to biodiversity conservation in overseas entities in future policies and programmes (e.g., EU Biodiversity Strategy post-2010, EU Maritime Strategy, EU Marine Policy, EU Regional Policy);
- take steps to streamline EU policies and programmes relevant to biodiversity conservation and climate change in EU overseas entities, including considering the development of a Europe overseas strategy and programme of work;
- explore the desirability and feasibility of developing a mechanism for improved coordination between and action by EU Member States, the EC and overseas entities to guide and facilitate the integration of biodiversity and climate change adaptation in EU overseas entities into the EC sectoral policies and programmes. This should be consistent with international environmental agreements, in this instance, the CBD strategic plan and the programmes of work of the CBD in those entities, and take into account initiatives such as the Memorandum of Understanding between France, Spain and Portugal and a number of their ORs for an EU strategy for ORs, and the process of review of the Association Decision for OCTs;
- ensure that adequate funds are directed at biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation in ORs and OCTs in the overall EU investment portfolio and facilitate access by ORs and OCTs to European funding opportunities through information dissemination, capacity building and targeted assistance in the development and implementation of integrated proposals for environmental protection and sustainable development;
- take advantage of the upcoming 2014 – 2018 budgeting process to include a programme specifically dedicated to the EU overseas entities in the 11th EDF and the financing instrument for development cooperation;
- facilitate and support, through EU regional delegations and programmes, integrated regional approaches to biodiversity conservation and climate change in line with CBD principles, goals and targets;
- demonstrate leadership in international fora related to biodiversity conservation through EU-funded work in support of regional integrated programmes;
- improve mechanisms to consult overseas entities and involve them, as appropriate, in the policy processes and programmes that are relevant to them;
- adapt the Birds and Habitats Directives, and especially their annexes, in order to incorporate the French ORs, which are not presently covered;
- support EU-wide research on biodiversity and ecosystem services in overseas entities and their geographic regions, and encourage the use of research results in policy formulation;
- develop processes to ensure that development projects supported by the European Commission are assessed with regard to their social and environmental impacts, at the identification and evaluation stages, and incorporate mitigation and compensation schemes when necessary.

6.2 Recommendations to EU Member States

In order to integrate their overseas entities into processes and mechanisms that exist under the auspices of the CBD, the EU Member States concerned should:

- ensure that their commitments and actions under the terms of the CBD include, whenever possible and appropriate, their respective overseas entities (including those that are uninhabited and that contain, as in the case of the BIOT, important and rich biological resources), with financial, human and technical resources that take account of the importance, richness and uniqueness of biodiversity in the various entities;

- ensure, in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD, that stakeholders in overseas entities are well informed and aware of the Convention, its post-2010 revised and updated strategic plan, the processes and requirements for its implementation at the local level, as well as the relevant decisions of COP 10;

- facilitate the engagement of institutions and experts from the overseas entities in the review of the Programme of work on Island Biodiversity which will be carried out over the next two years;

- encourage, facilitate and support the formulation, wherever these do not exist yet, of local strategies and action plans that are consistent with national policy and CBD commitments and informed by adequate research. Local and national strategies and action plans should be aligned to the CBD and its Programme of work on Island Biodiversity (for all insular overseas entities) and to the Programme of work on Forests (for French Guiana), and should be participatory in their approach;

- allow for OCT and OR representation at, participation in, and inputs into, meetings convened under the auspices of the CBD and other MEAs, particularly at the regional level.

In order to facilitate regional integration and cooperation processes, the EU Member States concerned should:

- collaborate with and support the design and implementation of regional projects that originate within one or several ORs or OCTs and involve their geographic neighbours;

- facilitate and support collaboration between ORs and OCTs at global and regional levels, across national boundaries, as well as their participation in relevant regional processes and institutions, whenever feasible;

- include, whenever possible and appropriate, representation from ORs and OCTs in relevant regional decision-making fora;

- coordinate national programmes with on-going and proposed regional programmes, for example by ensuring that there is an allocation towards the financial participation of local departments and staff in regional work or that local governments negotiate with the EU Member State for funding to facilitate their participation;

- collaborate among themselves in order to increase the visibility of and attention to overseas entities in EU policies and programmes and to leverage EU support.

6.3 Recommendations to Actors in ORs and OCTs

Institutions in the ORs and OCTs should play a lead role in facilitating their own participation in relevant regional mechanisms and processes, and in supporting these. This could be done by:

- leading or contributing to the design and implementation of regional projects that originate within one or several ORs or OCTs and involve their geographic neighbours;

- advocating for their participation and representation in relevant regional decision-making fora;

- developing and facilitating mechanisms for networking, mutual learning and collaboration among overseas entities;

- strengthening civil society organizations in overseas entities as critical actors in biodiversity conservation;

- negotiating with their EU Member State for funding to facilitate their participation in on-going and proposed regional policy fora and programmes.

6.4 Recommendations to Regional Institutions

Regional institutions should make every effort, consistent with their mandate and rules, to facilitate the formal and informal participation and representation of the ORs and OCTs located in their respective regions. This could be done by:

- encouraging their State members and partners to include representation and facilitate participation of ORs and OCTs in meetings and programmes;

- including actors in public agencies and civil society in the overseas entities on their mailing lists and communication expert networks;

- using, whenever possible and relevant, the expertise available in overseas entities in support of multilateral and bilateral programmes and projects in their regions.

6.5 Recommendations to the CBD

The CBD, through its COP and its Secretariat, and in collaboration with relevant European institutions, should encourage the six State Parties concerned:

- to ensure adequate coverage of the overseas entities in their NBSAPs, their national reports and other planning and reporting instruments;

- to involve relevant actors in the overseas entities in the formulation or revision of strategies and action plans as well as the preparation of national reports, in order to ensure that these planning and reporting processes reflect the needs and commitments of these local actors;

- to develop a specific strategy and/or action plan for their respective overseas entities, and to provide for the formulation and implementation of strategies and/or action plans at the level of each OR and OCT, as applicable.

The CBD COP should also explore the desirability and feasibility of including, within the Programme of work on Island Biodiversity, a specific objective and specific actions aimed at harmonizing policy and legislation within selected regions, notably the hotspots of island biodiversity.

The CBD and its Secretariat should also increase their support for regional cooperation and the involvement of EU overseas entities in the geographic regions in which they are located by:

- inviting institutions and representatives of overseas entities, whenever possible and relevant, through the appropriate channels, to regional events and activities;

- strengthening, or establishing whenever they do not yet exist, formal partnerships with regional institutions and mechanisms such as the Arctic Council, PREP and the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) SPAW.

The Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities that was considered at COP 10 provides an opportunity to address some of the challenges and opportunities discussed in this document.

6.6 Recommendations to GLISPA

GLISPA gives equal voice to all islands, regardless of their status. It can play a unique role in facilitating the involvement of overseas entities and their institutions in global and regional processes. This can be achieved, in particular, through a more systematic involvement of leaders and representatives from overseas entities in events and policy formulation exercises (with the concomitant encouragement to leaders in overseas entities to become more involved in GLISPA and act as ambassadors on behalf of biodiversity in these entities).

6.7 Recommendations to IUCN

Building on its past and current work in support of biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation in EU overseas entities, IUCN should:

- facilitate communication and exchanges between EU ORs and OCTs within and between regions, in collaboration with initiatives such as Net-Biome;

- work with partners to facilitate the incorporation of EU overseas entities biodiversity issues into international and EU fora, including through the development and implementation of an action plan to operationalize the Message from Reunion Island;

- collaborate with the CBD Secretariat and EU Member States to facilitate the participation of overseas entities in the review of the CBD's Programme of work on Island Biodiversity, to develop and adapt CBD tools and convene, in collaboration with regional institutions, as appropriate, capacity-building activities and awareness programmes on CBD in ORs and OCTs;

- collaborate with, and provide support to, the organizations that are specifically dedicated to biodiversity conservation in the EU overseas entities, especially those, such as DCNA, JNCC, the French National Committee for IUCN or the UKOTCF, that play a critical role in facilitating networking and collaboration among ORs and OCTs;

- encourage and support the participation of institutions in EU overseas entities in the work of GLISPA and encourage a more frequent use of other languages in the work of and communications from the Partnership;

- give consideration to the opportunity of using the conclusions and recommendations of this report as the basis for a consultation with the EU Member States concerned and with their overseas entities in order to formulate a plan of action aimed at facilitating the participation of these entities in the processes and activities implemented by GLISPA;

- encourage and enable the IUCN Regional Offices and Programmes concerned to facilitate the participation of IUCN members and other actors from the overseas entities in activities and processes in their respective regions. One of the ways in which this could be achieved would be in formulating and implementing complementary projects, with overseas entities and independent States using separate sources, but with a common purpose and agenda. IUCN could play a facilitating role to help in the identification and formulation of such initiatives.

Appendix 1. Status of CBD Implementation in Greenland (Denmark)[12]

Current Status

The Kingdom of Denmark consists of Denmark and the self-governing areas of Greenland and the Faroe Islands. Greenland has an elected parliament and government. It is associated to the European Union as an OCT. The Government of Greenland has full management responsibility over several sectors including biodiversity and other living resources, while responsibilities such as foreign affairs, defence and justice are shared with Denmark.

Greenland is located in the Arctic region. The total area is 2.1 million km^2, making it the world's largest island. The central part of Greenland is ice-covered (85 percent), and only around 410,500 km^2 is ice-free during the summer. Climate spans from low (sub) arctic in the south to high arctic in the north, and it is the climate that is the main determinant of distribution patterns of flora and fauna. These patterns are however also influenced by altitude as well as location in relation to the coast.

The Kingdom of Denmark is a Party to the CBD, and its ratification of the CBD applies to Greenland and the Faroe Islands. As an autonomous part of the Kingdom of Denmark, Greenland has separate planning and reporting arrangements with the CBD. Its Fourth National Report was submitted in January 2010.

Institutional Arrangements, Policies and Conservation Actions

In accordance with the requirements of Article 6(a) of the CBD, Greenland has, in recent years, undertaken various actions that contribute to the implementation of the Convention. In 1999, a comprehensive report on Greenland's ecosystem was compiled by the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources (GINR), called *The Biodiversity of Greenland – a country study*.

In 2003, a new Nature Protection Act (Landstings Act no. 29 of 18 December 2003 on the Protection of Nature) was adopted. The Act meets a number of obligations arising from Denmark's ratification of the CBD. The overall aim of the law is to conserve biological diversity, including genes, habitats, species and ecosystems, and to ensure sustainable exploitation of natural resources.

Greenland's NBSAP was finalized and approved in 2009. The main objective of this new NBSAP is to support the Government of Greenland in its implementation of the CBD and other relevant international agreements. The NBSAP includes a number of recommendations and actions to be implemented in two phases: the short term (1–2 years) and the long term (five years). Each recommendation has been assigned one of three priority categories, thus providing a basis for prioritization of available funds from the Government of Greenland and external funding mechanisms. The NBSAP is to be used directly by the central administration in Greenland, but it can also be used to initiate externally supported projects aimed at biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in Greenland.

Recommendations and actions contained in the NBSAP relate to nature protection, sustainable use, resource monitoring, administration and reporting procedures, information and outreach initiatives, capacity building and other areas, in accordance with the provisions of the CBD. Recommendations and actions are directed at the main national conservation institution (the Ministry of Domestic Affairs, Nature and Environment), but they also concern other ministries

12 This section is based primarily on the *Fourth National Report on the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity submitted by the Government of Greenland in 2009.*

and public institutions, municipalities and non-State actors. The NBSAP provides for the establishment of a steering committee chaired by the Ministry of Domestic Affairs, Nature and Environment, with responsibility for coordinating and monitoring NBSAP implementation.

The primary responsibility for research on biodiversity in Greenland rests with the GINR. The Institute provides biological advice, including recommended sustainable harvest levels, to the Government of Greenland, municipalities and other actors. By law, the purpose of the Institute is, among others, to provide the scientific basis for the sustainable use of natural resources as well for the protection of the environment and biological diversity. The aims of the GINR include the incorporation of local knowledge into the scientific work and an open dialogue with the Greenlandic community. This is achieved through community meetings, consultation and collaboration with relevant organizations, and outreach via publications, press releases and a website (www.natur.gl).

Funding for GINR research and monitoring activities is provided by an annual budget allocation from the Government of Greenland, supplemented by external funding mechanisms, including the Danish Environmental Support Programme for Danish Cooperation for Environment in the Arctic (DANCEA). DANCEA is a funding mechanism that has now existed for more than 15 years. It supports short-term research and conservation projects in a range of domains, including the prevention of pollution, climate research, protection and sustainable use of natural resources, health issues, and indigenous peoples.

Main Conclusions

Some Greenlandic species populations have declined during the last decades, particularly because of unsustainable hunting, which has been identified as one of the major threats. During the past few years, efforts have been made to achieve sustainable hunting by following scientific guidelines on the game species, resulting in a significant increase in some populations. The harvesting of many marine mammal species is regulated in executive orders and follows biological harvest advice on sustainable use. There is, however, a need to constantly monitor harvests of non-regulated species to assess whether additional regulation is needed.

Climate change is quickly becoming a major issue in Greenland, with potentially dramatic impacts on biological diversity, including changes in the ranges of species and ecosystems; changes in the extent of habitats and population sizes; possible genetic effects; changes in migratory habits; new threats from invasive alien species; and implications for the designation and management of protected areas. This is an area that is receiving increasing attention from relevant institutions in Greenland and Denmark, and from regional cooperation mechanisms in the Arctic.

Generally, significant progress has been made in recent years towards the conservation of biodiversity in Greenland. The development of management plans for protected areas and local awareness are given very high priority by local authorities. There is however a critical need to identify or confirm conservation priorities and to secure the protection of areas important for biodiversity. Greenland has initiated such a project that will identify national conservation priorities, develop a national strategy for monitoring protected areas, formulate management plans for specific areas, and conduct awareness-raising activities. The main obstacles encountered in the implementation of the CBD and other international agreements are identified as the lack of financial and human resources.

Appendix 2. Summary, National Study of France[13]

Current Status

The 12 French overseas entities (Martinique, Guadeloupe, Saint Martin, Saint Barthélémy, French Guiana, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Reunion Island, Mayotte, French Southern and Antarctic Territories (TAAF), New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, and French Polynesia) offer a great geographic diversity. They are located in the three large oceans of the world (Atlantic, Pacific and Indian), from the equatorial to the polar zone. All but *Terre Adélie* (Adélie Land – one of the five TAAF districts) and French Guiana are islands.

At the beginning of 2010, the combined population of these entities was estimated at 2,653,942 inhabitants, or 4 percent of the total French population. Population densities vary greatly, with Mayotte, Martinique, Reunion Island, Guadeloupe, Saint Martin and Saint Barthélémy being highly populated (with densities over 230/km^2), while others have densities that are below 80/km^2. The TAAF are uninhabited, but are regularly visited by scientific teams that reside there during their missions.

The ecological richness of these entities is exceptional. Over a total territory representing one quarter of metropolitan France, they are home to more species in all groups. If one considers only the endemic species, there are 26 times more species of plants, 3.5 times more species of molluscs, over 100 times more species of freshwater fish and 60 times more species of birds in the overseas entities than in metropolitan France.

With 756 globally threatened species present on its territory, France is among the ten countries of the world that are most directly concerned by the threat. These overseas entities are home to several species threatened with extinction. This is the case in particular in New Caledonia and French Polynesia, with respectively 355 and 149 threatened species according to the criteria of the IUCN Red List.

Ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity

France ratified the CBD in 1994, and adopted a national biodiversity strategy in 2004. This strategy has focused on the objective set by the European Commission to halt the loss of biological diversity by 2010. It is structured around 11 sectoral plans, including one specifically dedicated to ORs and OCTs. This national plan for overseas entities spells out specific objectives that local action plans are expected to implement in each entity. Indeed, all entities have formulated their own action plan, except Saint Martin and Saint Barthélémy, which are part of the action plan for Guadeloupe.

Biodiversity Conservation Policies

At the time of CBD ratification, France became a Party on behalf of all its entities. However, the implementation of biodiversity conservation actions in the overseas entities differs according to the legal status of each entity. Two situations exist with respect to mandates in biodiversity in overseas entities:

- in the *départements d'outre-mer* (DOM – overseas "departments"), in the *collectivité territoriale* (local government (territory)) of Saint Pierre and Miquelon, in the *collectivité départementale* (local government (**"**department**"**)) of Mayotte and in the TAAF, the French State is the authority over nature conservation;

- in the OCTs that have a specific autonomous status (French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna), biodiversity conservation is a local competency. Local authorities therefore adopt their own laws, taking inspiration from the provisions of national laws. Saint-Barthélémy does not have a specific plan for biodiversity, but it has its own environmental code.

13 This is the Executive Summary of a report submitted to IUCN by the French National Committee for IUCN and entitled *Contribution à l'évaluation de la mise en œuvre de la Convention sur la diversité biologique dans l'outre-mer européen : Bilan de la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie nationale pour la biodiversité en outre-mer*, December 2010.

In the second of these two cases, implementation is different. The strategic document formulated locally must conform with national objectives, but implementation is done in accordance with local legislation. France can provide incentives through the financing of specific actions.

Main Conclusions

The ratification of the CBD by all EU countries represents a major step towards biodiversity conservation. Through its ratification of the Convention in 1994 and the subsequent formulation of a national biodiversity strategy, France has, for the first time, integrated the challenges of overseas entities into a national policy of biodiversity conservation, with an action plan specifically dedicated to these entities.

This action plan for overseas entities has however not taken into account all the objectives of the CBD's Programme of work on Island Biodiversity. Access to and sharing of benefits, sustainable development, climate change and pollution, all areas where there are important CBD targets, were not covered.

International commitments have not been entirely fulfilled, as biodiversity has only been partially addressed, through the maintenance of species and ecosystems, but without sufficient integration into sectoral policies (agriculture, mining, infrastructure, etc.) that are responsible in particular for pollution and fragmentation of ecosystems. The promotion of sustainable development and the participation of civil society are critical elements in the formulation of any strategic document, but these were not fully reflected in the national strategy. One of the issues affecting policy implementation in the French ORs and OCTs is the overall weakness of civil society organizations.

Funding has been allocated to the implementation of actions, but these financial commitments came after the *Grenelle de l'environnement* organized in 2007, as they were allocated to agencies in 2009, five years after the adoption of the first local plans. Before that, there was no budget allocation attached to the plan for overseas entities, and funding was therefore more limited. The *Grenelle de l'environnement* has been a vehicle for significant progress and it has facilitated the implementation of the national strategy in the overseas entities, for example through the launch of species conservation plans (national action plans) presently being implemented in Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Reunion Island and the TAAF. The OCTs are however lagging behind in these important processes.

In addition, most of the local action plans have been formulated by public sector agencies, without involving all relevant stakeholders. While local conservation civil society organizations have participated in consultations, the local assemblies (*conseils régionaux* and *conseils généraux*) of the DOMs have in most cases not been involved. In some OCTs, such as New Caledonia and French Polynesia, the consultation process has been much more satisfactory.

The exercise in local strategy formulation has often been limited to the listing of actions to be implemented, without ranking according to priority, and without local coherence. In addition, the formulation of local strategies should have been accompanied by the identification of quantitative and qualitative indicators that would allow for permanent monitoring of the impact of actions on the overall objective of halting biodiversity loss, with results validated by a monitoring committee. However, implementation has not been regularly monitored, and this is true at both local and national levels: local institutions, except in the case of French Polynesia and Guadeloupe, did not set up a local monitoring committee, while, at the national level, the committee has met only once over the five-year period, and only with some of its members.

Following the implementation of the action plan for overseas entities, some encouraging results can be noted, such as:

- the establishment of new protected areas: *Parc Amazonien de Guyane* (National Park of French Guiana), *Parc National de La Réunion* (National Park of Reunion Island), *Réserve naturelle des Terres australes* (Nature Reserve of Southern Lands), *Parc naturel marin de Mayotte* (Natural Marine Park of Mayotte);

- inclusion of the Lagoons of New Caledonia: Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystems, as well as the *Pitons, Cirques et Remparts de La Réunion* (Pitons, Cirques and Remparts of Reunion Island) on the World Heritage List;

- and the formulation of strategies to combat IAS.

From 2011, the new national strategy for biodiversity in overseas entities will have to involve more effectively all stakeholders, at both local and national levels, and will have to formulate operational and costed objectives, with periodic monitoring and evaluation of results.

Appendix 3. Summary, National Study of the Netherlands[14]

Current Status

The Dutch Caribbean consists of the Leeward Islands (Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao) and the Windward Islands (Sint Maarten, Saint Eustatius and Saba). The total land area covers 990 km^2 and the total population is 305,000. There is one Kingdom of the Netherlands which, up to the constitutional changes of late 2010, consisted of three States: the Netherlands, Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles.

The Constitution of the Kingdom of the Netherlands changed on 10 October 2010, when the autonomous country of the Netherlands Antilles was dismantled, with Curaçao and Sint Maarten now being autonomous countries within the Kingdom with a status comparable to that of Aruba, while Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba (known as the BES Islands) have become part of the Netherlands as special municipalities. The decision-making structure will remain the same as it is at present, with the autonomous countries having their own nature conservation and biodiversity policy. The Kingdom will have more direct and explicit responsibility for the BES Islands, in light of their new status.

Institutional Arrangements, Policies and Conservation Actions

International treaties fall under the responsibility of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with signature and ratification always stating for which parts of the Kingdom a particular instrument is valid. Although the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba have ratified the CBD, they do not have national biodiversity strategies and plans in line with the CBD.

Both Aruba and the former Netherlands Antilles have nature conservation legislation which is consistent with CITES and the SPAW Protocol. Policy and planning for nature conservation in both countries are however somewhat weak. The former Netherlands Antilles have a nature policy plan, but implementation is left to the island (local) governments, with each government expected to draft its own nature conservation and zoning legislation and being responsible for implementation. These islands do not have a nature conservation plan, except for Bonaire, but the timeframe of that plan expired in 2004.

Both Aruba and the former Netherlands Antilles have extensive fisheries regulations. The regulations of the former Netherlands Antilles apply to the EEZ, which includes the large and biologically rich Saba Bank. Curaçao and Saba have island-specific fisheries legislation that applies to the waters within the 12-mile zone. In Bonaire, some fisheries measures are included in nature conservation laws.

In the Government of the Netherlands Antilles, a Department of Environment and Nature was established in 1995. On Aruba and the islands of the Antilles, tasks and responsibilities related to nature conservation are allocated to various government departments. The issue of nature conservation is not high on the political agenda, resulting in a limited government budget for this sector.

An important instrument of nature conservation is the establishment of nature and marine parks on the islands, and this is an area where the Dutch Caribbean has made much progress and has acquired extremely valuable experience. All protected areas are managed by NGOs which are financed by entrance fees, dive tags and some government subsidies. Some of the parks have a formal status; others have not been officially declared but are still under some form of active management.

Capacity is one of the main constraints to effective biodiversity conservation in the Dutch Caribbean.

14 This is the Executive Summary of a report submitted by CURCONSULT of Curaçao to IUCN and entitled *Review of the Status of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of Biodiversity Action Plans in the European Union Overseas Entities, Report on the Netherlands and the Dutch Caribbean,* draft version of September 2010.

Nature conservation on each of the islands depends on a small number of staff members, employed by different departments, with limited financial resources and insufficient coordination. Some training programmes have however been set up for protected area rangers to manage nature and marine parks, and collaboration among the territories is facilitated by the DCNA.

As a contribution to CBD implementation, inventories of species have been made on the islands. Research on marine, coastal and terrestrial biodiversity is conducted primarily by Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity (CARMABI), a competent and experienced research organization and station that is also involved in protected area management.

The main results obtained and impacts made towards the achievement of the goals and targets of the CBD's Programme of work on Island Biodiversity in the Dutch Caribbean can be summarized as follows:

#	CBD objectives	Results or impacts
1	Promote the conservation of biological diversity of island ecosystems, habitats and biomes	More than 10 percent of the land area is conserved by having nature parks except for Sint Maarten. The BES Islands have marine parks established.
2	Promote the conservation of island species diversity	Inventories of species have been made in the former Netherlands Antilles, to a large extent as a result of the CBD. In some areas, especially in Aruba, there still are some blanks.
3	Promote the conservation of island genetic diversity	There is no programme to conserve and maintain local landraces of agricultural crops, nor is there any programme to conserve the local Criollo pig breed(s).
4	Promote sustainable use and consumption	Sustainable use and consumption of the islands' biodiversity-based products is relevant only to the fisheries sector. In all islands of the Antilles the fish stock has reduced significantly. One of the richest fishing grounds of the Caribbean, the Saba Bank, faces reduction of its stocks despite strict management and control.
5	Pressure from habitat loss, land-use change and degradation, and sustainable [sic] water use, is reduced.	Natural habitats are under pressure, especially in coastal areas as a result of infrastructure development. In Curaçao, this is protected by zoning laws, on the BES Islands this is less relevant because of low population density. The high population density on Sint Maarten has resulted in a dramatic loss of natural habitats.
6	Control threats to island biological diversity from invasive species	The problems of invasive species, pests and plant diseases are only recently being tackled; public awareness of these issues is still very low. There are no special training programmes in these areas. In Curaçao and Aruba there are plans and proposals to establish "biosecurity units".
7	Challenges to island biodiversity from climate change and pollution	There have been no specific actions to combat climate change or to develop plans to mitigate its effects on the Netherlands Antilles. Pollution has decreased somewhat. Protection of coastal waters has improved since the establishment of sewage treatment plants on Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire and Sint Maarten. These plants were built to protect coastal waters and because of the increase in sewerage. Still many houses are not connected. The pollution caused by the refinery on Curaçao has been reduced in the last decade. Solid waste is no longer dumped at sea, but it still happens in conservation areas because of lack of enforcement.
8	Maintain capacity of island ecosystems to deliver goods and services	The Dutch Antillean islands' ecosystems are not relevant for food delivery except for fish. Practically all goods are imported and increasingly also fish from Venezuela and farms.
9	Socio-cultural diversity of local communities	There was and is limited attention devoted to socio-cultural diversity. A couple of NGOs with limited resources are involved in preserving the cultural heritage.
10	Fair and equitable share of benefits from genetic resources.	It is the prerogative of Island governments to decide on the use of genetic resources. So far only Saba has used it.
11	Improved financial human, scientific and technological capacity	Implementation of the CBD and capacity building for nature conservation on the islands has been a slow process with limited results except at the federal level of the Antilles. Due to constitutional changes this gain could be threatened. Most present knowledge is concentrated in one research organization (CARMABI) and in protected area management agencies.

Main Conclusions and Recommendations

- There is a need to place nature conservation, biodiversity and environmental protection higher on the political agenda;

- While much progress has been made in recent years with respect to legislation, there is a need for additional legal instruments in some areas;

- There is a need to increase budget allocations to nature conservation and environment;

- Following the constitutional change, efforts should be made to ensure a more effective and efficient application of CBD guidelines and the provisions of international treaties at the level of Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten as well as the BES Islands (Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba);

- The local population of the islands should be more involved and made more aware of the problems of nature conservation and biodiversity, and of possible solutions;

- There is a need for significant investments in capacity development in governmental as well as non-governmental organizations;

- There is a good knowledge base on biodiversity in the Dutch Caribbean, and it should be well maintained and continuously expanded.

Appendix 4. Summary, National Study of Portugal[15]

Current Status

Madeira and the Azores are insular regions of Portugal with an autonomous political and administrative status under the Portuguese Constitution. Both have their own regional governments and parliaments and are responsible for the political and administrative decisions in all sectors except defence and foreign affairs.

Portugal ratified the CBD in 1993. In 2001, in accordance with its commitments to the CBD, Portugal developed its National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity as the main policy instrument for nature conservation, promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources, and compliance with its international commitments, in particular those made under the terms of the CBD.

Institutional Arrangements, Policies and Conservation Actions

Despite its national scope, the Portuguese National Strategy does not cover the two autonomous regions of Madeira and the Azores specifically, and these two regions have not formulated their own strategy for nature conservation and biodiversity. The main linkages with the CBD's goals and targets take place at the time of reporting at national level, when Madeira and the Azores are called to cooperate with the national focal point (*Instituto de Conservação da Natureza e Biodiversidade* – National Institute for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity) and a detailed compilation of actions implemented in these regions is made and incorporated into Portugal's national report.

Despite not having established their own biodiversity strategies and action plans, Madeira and the Azores have been able to implement a significant and diverse set of actions dealing with nature conservation and biodiversity. Most of these are fully consistent with the goals of the CBD and in particular those of the Programme of work on Island Biodiversity. Both Madeira and the Azores have also put in place a series of sectoral policies and legal arrangements, but without any specific legislation towards a comprehensive strategy for nature conservation and biodiversity.

The lack of such a strategy reduces the opportunities to integrate biodiversity and nature conservation issues into other sectoral policies and into the decision-making process. Nature conservation and biodiversity are mostly perceived and approached as limited to protected areas or particular endemic endangered species, and the value of mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning is not yet fully appreciated.

Nevertheless, as both regions have much more than 50 percent of their territories classified as protected areas, nature and biodiversity conservation is in effect being implemented in all main ecosystems.

Information and public participation are key elements in most of the actions and projects. At the institutional level, there is good cooperation among most of the actors working in the field of nature conservation and biodiversity in these two regions. The government departments and research laboratories have joint projects with the universities and NGOs as well as with the municipalities.

Most of the financial resources used for nature conservation and biodiversity are provided by the regional authorities, and there is also a long and effective tradition in the use of co-financing from European programmes such as LIFE, INTERREG and PCT-Mac. INTERREG IIIB and PCT-Mac are excellent

15 This is the Executive Summary of a report submitted by António Domíngos Abreu to IUCN and entitled *Review of the Status of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of Biodiversity Action Plans in the European Union Overseas Entities, Report on Portugal and its Outermost Regions,* draft version of September 2010.

demonstrations of cooperative projects involving Madeira, the Azores and the Canary Islands (Spain) dealing with nature conservation and biodiversity at a regional (Macaronesian) level, including in some cases the Cape Verde Islands in these projects. This cooperation has led to the establishment of common strategies and the use of common methods in the management of biodiversity in these islands. Exotic and invasive species, joint management and conservation of marine mammals, and a common database of endangered and endemic species are among the most visible results obtained.

Main Conclusions and Recommendations

While there is no formal connection between institutions and programmes in Madeira and the Azores on the one hand and the CBD on the other, it can be concluded that the goals and commitments of the CBD are well covered in these two ORs.

A local/regional strategy aligned with the CBD's Programme of work on Island Biodiversity would however be a helpful additional tool towards a better integration of biodiversity concerns into other sectors. The two regions would also benefit from a more systematic identification of conservation priorities, as the basis for additional national, European and international support to complement and enhance the efforts made by the local authorities.

With respect to nature conservation and biodiversity, Madeira and the Azores have the opportunity to play a new and important role in relation to the European Union and international policies and instruments. When one considers their biodiversity, endemism, rarity and examples of best practices, one sees that these are the richest regions in Portugal and among the richest in Europe. They do therefore have much to offer, not only because of their contribution to global conservation, but also because they are excellent natural laboratories to understand, model and monitor biodiversity. This potential should be acknowledged by international and European programmes and institutions, consequently allowing local research teams and biodiversity managers to participate.

Considering the overall situation of biodiversity in Madeira and the Azores, this study has concluded that:

- There should be greater international and national recognition of the efforts made and successes obtained by local authorities towards the conservation of the natural assets of Madeira and the Azores;

- The national, European and international institutions should allow for a more permanent and effective participation of the local authorities in the formulation of international policies for nature conservation on islands;

- An exhaustive inventory of the capacities available and work done in these Regions should be made, identifying examples of good practices as well as the main gaps and needs;

- Regional governments in these two ORs should develop their own local strategies for nature conservation and biodiversity and should use them in order to assure a better integration of biodiversity into other sectoral policies, especially in land use and physical planning and in coastal zone management. Such strategies would also help to create more synergies with various international processes and instruments, especially the CBD.

- The local authorities should advocate for the inclusion of local priorities in the national biodiversity strategy and identify specific needs;

- Macaronesian cooperation with the Canary Islands and Cape Verde should proceed and increase, towards a permanent common monitoring and management system for their shared biodiversity. Cooperation should also be encouraged with neighbouring countries on the African continent whenever possible and desirable;

- This cooperation should be further extended to the rest of the European overseas entities, following on from the positive experiences of initiatives such as the Net-Biome project.

Appendix 5. Summary, National Study of Spain[16]

Current Status

The Canary Islands is an autonomous community of Spain, having its own government and parliament. The autonomy of the Canary Islands, as expressed in the Spanish Constitution (and the organic law 10/1982), gives it exclusive competence in a number of fields including physical planning and land management, hunting, fisheries in inner waters, aquaculture, water management, scientific research (in coordination with the Spanish State), natural protected areas and coastal zone management.

Spain ratified the CBD in 1993 and in 1998 approved the National Strategy for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity as its main policy instrument for nature conservation. This Strategy meets Spain's commitment to produce and implement an NBSAP. Both the ratification of the Convention and the Spanish National Strategy for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity are applicable to the Canary Islands. As an autonomous region of Spain, the Canary Islands is able to approve its own regional/local strategy but no such strategy has been formulated.

Institutional Arrangements, Policies and Conservation Actions

The linkages between the Canary Islands and the CBD's goals and targets are limited mainly to the time of reporting at national level, when the Canary Islands' authorities are called upon to cooperate with the national authorities in the preparation of national reports, and a detailed compilation of actions implemented in the Canary Islands is provided and included in such reports.

Despite not having established its own strategy, the Canary Islands have been able to implement a significant and diverse set of actions dealing with nature and biodiversity conservation and management. Conservation activities are also implemented by the insular governments (i.e., the governments of each island, known as *Cabildo*) and some municipalities, since they have responsibilities for some aspects of nature conservation and biodiversity management. Some insular governments have indeed sought to formulate their own insular biodiversity strategies. Most of the work in progress is consistent with the goals of the CBD and in particular with those of the Programme of work on Island Biodiversity as well as with the main European policies and strategies for nature conservation and biodiversity.

The lack of a regional strategy in the Canary Islands is however considered as a factor responsible for the insufficient integration of biodiversity and nature conservation concerns into other sectoral policies and the general policy decision-making process. Nature conservation and biodiversity are mostly perceived and approached as specifically related to protected areas or particular endemic endangered species.

Nevertheless, as around 40 percent of the Canary Islands territory is under some form of protected area status, it can be argued that there is effective nature and biodiversity conservation in all the main ecosystems of the archipelago.

At the institutional level, there is good cooperation between most of the actors working in the field of nature conservation and biodiversity in this region. The government departments and research laboratories have joint projects with the universities and NGOs as well as with the municipalities and insular governments.

Most of the financial resources used for nature conservation and biodiversity are provided by the

16 This is the Executive Summary of a report submitted by António Domíngos Abreu to IUCN and entitled *Review of the Status of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of Biodiversity Action Plans in the European Union Overseas Entities, Report on Spain and the Canary Islands*, draft version of September 2010.

regional authorities and there is also a long and effective tradition in the use of co-financing from European programmes such as LIFE, INTERREG and PCT-Mac. National Spanish authorities are also contributing to and cooperating with regional authorities in several ways, with research programmes and protected area management, including the Biosphere Reserves.

At the level of Macaronesia, INTERREG IIIB and PCT-Mac are excellent examples of cooperative projects involving the Canary Islands, Madeira and the Azores (Portugal) dealing with nature conservation and biodiversity on a regional scale, frequently also including the Cape Verde Islands in projects. As a result of this cooperation, common strategies and methods for the management of biodiversity in these islands have been formulated and adopted. Exotic and invasive species, joint management and conservation of marine mammals, and a common database of endangered endemic species are among the most visible results obtained.

Main Conclusions and Recommendations

While there is no formal connection between institutions and programmes in the Canary Islands and the CBD, it can be concluded that the goals and commitments of the CBD are well covered in this OR.

A local strategy aligned with the CBD's Programme of work on Island Biodiversity would however be a helpful additional tool towards a better integration of biodiversity into other sectors at local level. It would also be helpful to identify more systematically the conservation priorities, as the basis for additional national, European and international support to complement and enhance the efforts made by the local authorities.

With respect to nature and biodiversity conservation, the Canary Islands have the opportunity to play a new and important role in relation to the European Union and international policies and instruments. When one considers its biodiversity, endemism, rarity and examples of best practices, one sees that this is the richest region in Spain and among the richest in Europe. It does therefore have much to offer, not only because of its contribution to global conservation, but also because it is an excellent natural laboratory to understand, model and monitor biodiversity. These roles should be acknowledged by international programmes and institutions, consequently allowing local research teams and biodiversity managers to participate.

Considering the overall situation of biodiversity in the Canary Islands, this study has concluded that:

- There should be greater international and national recognition of the efforts made and successes obtained by local authorities towards the conservation of the natural assets of this OR;

- The national, European and international institutions should allow for a more permanent and effective participation of the local authorities in the formulation of international policies for nature conservation on the islands;

- An exhaustive inventory of the capacities and work done in this Region should be made, identifying examples of good practices as well as the main gaps and needs;

- The regional government in the Canary Islands should develop its own local strategies for nature conservation and biodiversity and should use it in order to assure a better integration of biodiversity into other sectoral policies, especially in land use and physical planning and in coastal zone management;

- The local authorities should advocate the need to better reflect local priorities in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan and identify specific needs;

- Macaronesian cooperation with the Portuguese ORs and Cape Verde should proceed and increase, towards a permanent monitoring and management system for the area's common and shared biodiversity. Cooperation should also be encouraged with neighbouring countries on the African continent whenever possible and desirable;

- This cooperation should be further extended to the rest of the European overseas entities, following on from the positive experiences of initiatives such as the Net-Biome project.

Appendix 6. Summary, National Study of the UK[17]

Current Status

The UK OTs are 14 small island territories, some uninhabited, located in the Caribbean Sea, Indian Ocean, Pacific and South Atlantic. Low in population size, they range from 51 (Pitcairn) to 110,000 (British Virgin Islands) inhabitants. As a result of their isolation, these islands have high levels of endemic biodiversity, provide key habitat for migratory species such as sea birds and host rich coral and marine life, but are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in comparison to their size and population as well as impacts of alien invasive species. The UK's OTs collectively contain 240 globally threatened species, 74 of which are critically endangered.

The UK signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) on behalf of the Kingdom, including its OTs, but only three of these are included, at the request of their governments, in the UK's ratification of the CBD (1994). These are the BVI, the Cayman Islands, and Saint Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island.

OTs not included in the UK's ratification are not legally covered by the Convention. UK reports to the CBD Secretariat provide limited information on the OTs and are inconsistent on which OTs are included in the reports. In practice, OTs covered and not covered by the CBD are treated the same in terms of eligibility for UK funding and conservation support.

Background

Until 2001, biodiversity conservation in each of the OTs was viewed by the UK government as primarily the responsibility of the local OT government. At the time of drafting the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in 1994, OT biodiversity resources were treated as non-British resources and given limited attention in the 1994 BAP and the 1997 update.

However, the UK government acknowledged greater commitment to UK OT biodiversity conservation in 2001 with the signing of Environment Charters between the UK government and each of the OT governments. This was accompanied by funding support through the current Overseas Territories Environment Programme funded jointly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID).

The FCO was responsible for overseeing the Charters' implementation because of its mandate to coordinate all UK Government policy on the OTs. However it was hampered in this role because of its lack of a formal mandate for biodiversity and environmental issues.

Institutional Arrangements, Policies and Conservation Actions

Between 2007 and 2009, changes were made to the UK institutional arrangements for biodiversity conservation and support to the OTs. This included the establishment of a Cross-Departmental Overseas Territory Biodiversity Partnership, chaired by DEFRA. The FCO, DFID, the UK Overseas Territories Association and the JNCC, which acts as the Secretariat, are all part of the Partnership. In 2009, a United Kingdom Overseas Territory Biodiversity Strategy was developed which gives recognition to the globally significant biodiversity in the OTs and underscores the UK government commitment to support Territory governments to meet international obligations. The strategy is backed up by the JNCC's 2008–2011 Programme Plan for JNCC's Nature Conservation in the OTs.

The main civil society organizations that are active

17 This is the Executive Summary of a report submitted by Gillian Cooper to IUCN and entitled *Review of the Status of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of Biodiversity Action Plans in the European Union Overseas Entities, Report on the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories,* draft version of September 2010.

in conservation in the OTs are the RSPB and the UKOTCF. A number of scientific and academic organizations in the UK are also active in several OTs. Within most territories, there are a number of active NGOs, including National Trusts.

There is a vast difference in the size and capacity of the environment and conservation departments in the OTs. They range from a relatively large and well resourced department in the Cayman Islands with 37 staff to that of Tristan with one staff member and sporadic volunteer support.

Despite the constraints, considerable progress has been made by OT governments in analysing how policies and existing institutional arrangements can be better integrated for more holistic approaches to sustainable development, and in developing strategies and action plans best suited to their capacity. The Cayman Islands and Tristan da Cunha have both developed BAPs. The BVI, Saint Helena and Ascension Island all have a current plan or strategy that provides a guide to biodiversity conservation needs on the territories. In the development of each of these documents, a consultative and participatory approach has been employed.

In the territories where BAPs have been developed, the process appears to have been an important "growth" opportunity within the conservation departments. Skills and knowledge have been improved in marshalling the required information for the BAP – inventories of island species and habitats – as well as in the development and monitoring of plans.

On the ground, OTs have made significant and steady progress in designating protected areas, in endemic species and habitat conservation, and in the control of invasive species. In many cases this has been achieved by small and resource-poor NGOs and conservation departments. However, progress is lacking in holistic and ecosystem approaches to conservation such as watershed management and building climate change resilience. Comprehensive management and a strategic approach to maintaining representative ecosystems need greater consideration. In general, issues affecting biodiversity conservation outside protected areas, such as land-use control and development, have been far more challenging.

Main Conclusions

The peculiar sovereignty status of the UK's OTs makes the mechanisms through MEAs as well as EU and regional policies complex and unclear. In most cases these OTs are excluded from the funding mechanisms for MEAs afforded to sovereign States. At the level of the EU, OTs are given disproportionally low attention to the value of their biodiversity. OTs have traditionally occupied a development aid relationship. EU Member States should seek to move beyond this classic relationship and develop a more equitable relationship with regard to biodiversity conservation policy and practice.

The recently established UK institutional arrangements and strategy to address biodiversity conservation in the OTs have helped to solidify roles and responsibilities. However, at present there seems to be, in general, a one-way, linear communication flow from the UK to its OTs. It is as yet unclear how achievements and lessons learned from biodiversity work in the UK OTs are disseminated to the wider UK biodiversity community. At present, UK OT biodiversity work appears "sectoralized" and lacking integration within the public sector bodies and other institutions dealing with biodiversity throughout the UK.

The UK OT governments have made an effort to develop policies and institutional arrangements better suited to delivering sustainable development and meeting conservation goals. However, the implementation mechanisms and legal tools to put plans into practice appear to have fallen short.

Firstly, management functions for biodiversity-related issues are spread across a number of departments, making coordination complex. Secondly, the overall legislative framework is outdated and weak implementation and enforcement have caused biodiversity loss. In many cases, comprehensive new legislation has been drafted but not yet enacted years later. Thirdly, the political nature of land-use and development control brings conservation and environmental departments and NGOs into conflict with more powerful development interests. The ability of environment agencies tasked with the implementation of CBD commitments to influence development planning and land use is often limited,

even in cases where there is an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and established planning process.

Finally, shortage of funding remains a major constraint for meeting biodiversity targets. The earmarked £1.5 million from DEFRA's Darwin Initiative for OT conservation work has been welcomed by conservation practitioners. However, in addition to the £1 million from the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, it is minor in comparison to the £450 million spent on biodiversity conservation in the UK. For aid-dependent OTs, conservation work is totally dependent on grants through these two funds. Programmatic funding rather than one-off conservation projects would be preferred in many cases to sustain conservation gains. This arrangement is not uncommon for conservation activities in metropolitan UK where the global significance of biodiversity is poor in comparison to the global biodiversity value residing in the UK OTs.

Appendix 7. Summary of the Regional Analysis[18]

Significance of Biodiversity in the Regions in Which Overseas Entities are Located

The overseas entities of Europe are located in geographic regions of high biodiversity value, including several biodiversity hotspots:

- The Arctic region includes two EU OCTs, Greenland, and Saint Pierre and Miquelon. There are few endemic species on either OCT but Greenland has high overall native diversity, and the waters surrounding these OCTs are extremely rich;

- The Antarctic region contains four OCTs: the British Antarctic Territory; the Falkland Islands (Malvinas); TAAF; and South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands. The harsh climate of these regions means that there is relatively low terrestrial vegetation and mammal biodiversity. The waters surrounding the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) are ecologically very rich and support large populations of birds as well as marine mammals;

- The Caribbean is the region that includes the largest number of EU overseas entities, with six islands in the Dutch Caribbean; the French ORs and OCTs of Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Barthélémy and Saint Martin; and the UK OCTs of Anguilla, Bermuda, BVI, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The region shows extremely diverse terrestrial ecosystems over short ranges, and Caribbean coastal and marine ecosystems are also critically important;

- The Guyana Shield region includes one OR: French Guiana, which has immense biodiversity resources: 83.1 percent of French Guiana is covered by equatorial rainforest. Five thousand seven hundred and fifty plant species, 718 species of birds, 183 species of mammals, 480 species of freshwater fish and 108 species of amphibian have been inventoried, but there is still much to be studied;

- The Indian Ocean region, which includes one OR and three OCTs, is home to about 15 percent of the world's coral reefs and to a large variety of marine mammals. Terrestrially, these islands of the Indian Ocean also have extremely diverse ecosystems that occur over short ranges;

- Macaronesia consists of a group of several islands in the North-east Atlantic, with three European overseas entities: the Azores (Portugal), the Canary Islands (Spain) and Madeira (Portugal). The biodiversity of these islands consists of a blend of the biological families found in the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and Africa. The islands are also surrounded by exceptional marine biodiversity;

- The Oceania region contains three remote OCTs of France and one UK OCT. These are French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, and Wallis and Futuna. Due to their isolation, numbers of terrestrial species in these islands are low but endemism is high;

- The South Atlantic Ocean region includes one UK OCT. Administratively, this includes Saint Helena, Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island, although geographically they are several thousand kilometres apart and function independently. These islands have high levels of endemism.

18 This is a brief summary of selected sections of a report on a Regional Analysis submitted by consultant Gillian Cooper. This report provided the basis for the contents of section 3.4 of the present report, and for the conclusions and recommendations relevant to the relationship between EU overseas entities and their geographic regions.

Institutional Arrangements for Regional Cooperation in Biodiversity Conservation

In each of these geographic regions, there are very complex landscapes of decision-making bodies and mechanisms. Generally, overseas entities have limited opportunities to participate in or contribute to these mechanisms at a regional or international (UN) level.

Patterns of regional participation typically reflect the geopolitical complexity of each region and the unique status of overseas entities. Different overseas entities groupings participate in various bodies and there are only a few amongst the plethora of regional bodies in which all overseas entities participate alongside the independent states (noticeable exceptions are the Association of Caribbean States and the Regional Activity Centre of the SPAW Protocol in the Caribbean, as well as the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific, in particular SPREP.

In several instances, the regional mechanisms and groupings reflect linguistic and former colonial groupings and they have found it difficult to adopt an ecosystem-wide approach. As a result, regional bodies have failed to promote broadly inclusive regional cooperation. At the UN level, while overseas entities do not have a separate place at the table, they can be part of the State delegation, such as those of RFMOs, but this rarely happens.

Constraints and Obstacles to Regional Cooperation

Geopolitical complexity and discord

The range of geopolitical associations that territories have as ORs and OCTs and the diversity of the political systems in each EU Member State add to the complexity of regional cooperation and integration. For example, the Caribbean has three different groupings of EU overseas entities (France, Netherlands and UK), not all of which participate in the same capacity. Geopolitical disputes over sovereignty, as is the case in a number of island OCTs in the Indian Ocean, have created significant discord that debilitates regional collaboration and decision-making processes.

Participation and the perception of benefits from participation

Decision-making bodies, particularly those established under the UN, involve ORs and OCTs through the EU Member State. Therefore, overseas entities are generally not required to participate although many have environmental competencies. With regard to RFMOs and large-scale regional organizations, while a lack of interest to participate is understandable, small EU overseas entities may feel that they have little power to influence governance and that benefits will flow regardless of input. However, non-participation undermines approaches for transboundary ecosystem-based management of biodiversity and natural resources.

Disconnect between policy and implementation

While OCTs may participate in decision-making bodies as “associate” States and help to shape regional policy in some regional institutions, their unusual status means that they often cannot participate in the implementation of regional projects, unless they receive, when possible and applicable, complementary funding and technical assistance from an alternative source such as the EU Member State or the EC. This was the case for example with a GEF-funded project implemented by the CCCCC, where DFID provided complementary funding to extend programme benefits to Caribbean UK OCTs.

Strong ties to EU State

Where ORs and OCTs have strong links to the EU Member State, in many cases this has suppressed the need for regional cooperation. In the case of the ORs, their close ties to France, Spain and Portugal mean that they feel closer to the EU Member State than to their regional neighbours. While these closer ties mean that ORs generally have good resources to address biodiversity and climate change needs in comparison to those in the rest of the region, it can often mean that the need and demand for regional cooperation is lacking, and this is not helped by the fact that the EU Member States do not collaborate much among themselves on matters related to overseas entities.

Geographical isolation

Geographical isolation and, to some extent, small size (and therefore capacity) have undoubtedly played a part in undermining the participation of ORs and OCTs in regional cooperation mechanisms. UK OCTs of the South-east Atlantic and Pitcairn in the Oceania region illustrate this. All four territories are small in population size and in extremely remote locations. In the case of the South-east Atlantic, this also means that they have closer ties to the UK than with each other.

Institutions struggling to adopt ecosystem-based and regional approaches

Organizations set up originally with a mandate of serving countries within a region from one language group or with particular cultural links (either implicit or explicit), such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), have established patterns of communication and collaboration and it would require a significant cultural shift for them to become more inclusive. Such organizations that now have to take on an environment mandate are also unfamiliar with using a broader eco-regional approach to integration. Without a broader approach, their geographic scope is reduced and therefore limiting in their impact. The situation is however more encouraging in the Pacific Region, where regional institutions have adopted a Pacific Plan, including a number of regional strategies in the area of biodiversity conservation, climate change and marine resource management.

Language

Although more of an issue in the past, language barriers are still a hindrance to exploring opportunities for regional cooperation. Regional organizations are gradually overcoming this issue by recruiting multilingual staff, but on a practical level it still prevents technocrats from communicating and sharing lessons. It also prevents isolated territories like Pitcairn and French Guiana from participating regionally. If regionalism is a priority, more needs to be done to make language skills at all levels a political commitment.

Opportunities to be Expanded and Explored

Sharing knowledge and technical expertise

A number of territories have good technical expertise in biodiversity and climate change-related areas due to their close links to the EU Member state that could be made more available and could form the basis for closer collaboration and integration with their regional neighbours. The presence of important biodiversity resources in ORs and OCTs should also be regionally celebrated and not just the flagship of the EU State. By the same token, overseas entities have a lot to learn from their regional neighbours, for example on decentralized and participatory approaches to the management of natural resources.

ORs and OCTs initiating regional projects

ORs and OCTs have successfully established regional programmes through which they can share expertise and lessons with their neighbours. This can be seen with the SPAW Regional Activity Centre based in Guadeloupe and the Transboundary programme for the Guianas based in French Guiana. Institutions in the EU overseas entities should be encouraged to adopt and promote similar initiatives, using a variety of mechanisms, including those available within the EC (INTERREG programme).

Coordinating regional programme delivery with EU Member States

At the time of development of region-wide programmes, it would make sense for implementing and donor agencies to consult with the EU Member States to get their buy-in both politically and financially to facilitate the participation of ORs and OCTs in that region. This would undoubtedly add a layer to negotiations but could also provide additional funding and technical support to regional programmes. This can be successfully demonstrated by the CCCCC programme in the Caribbean, already mentioned above.

Appendix 8: Main Results Obtained in the Various Overseas Entities

The results obtained can, in the case of the insular entities (see the end of this section for notes on Greenland and French Guiana), be measured against the goals and targets of the CBD's Programme of work on Island Biodiversity, and this section provides a summary of the results obtained and impacts made in achieving these goals and targets across the ORs and OCTs.

Goal 1: Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of island ecosystems, habitats and biomes

1.1 10% of island ecological regions conserved

Probably the greatest achievement has been made in the establishment and management of protected areas in the overseas entities, with the target achieved in practically all entities. Of the inhabited ORs and OCTs, Madeira is the entity that has the greatest percentage of land area under some degree of protection (more than 75 percent), while Martinique and Reunion Island have 57 percent and 47 percent respectively (although the regime of protection in Martinique under the status of *Parc Naturel Régional* (Regional Nature Park) does not provide for strict biodiversity conservation). Tristan da Cunha has 44 percent coverage, the Canary Islands 40 percent and the BVI 33 percent. In the uninhabited locations, the Chagos Archipelago (BIOT) is now the largest no-take marine reserve in the world.

The identification of sites has been less strategic in some locations and has not included representation of all ecosystems, particularly in the OCTs. However, as ecological surveying and classification have improved on the OCTs over the last 10 –20 years, knowledge of the different ecological regions has begun to inform the selection and designation of protected areas.

1.2 Protection through comprehensive, effectively managed protected area networks

Protected area networks exist for some of the EU ORs and OCTs. In the ORs, the closer link to the EU provides for greater accountability from the EU Member State towards management of protected areas. The Spanish and Portuguese OR protected area systems are also included in the network of European sites in the Natura 2000 system.

The OCTs however have a more fragmented system of management. In the UK OCTs, few islands have a system of protected areas apart from the BVI, where there is a well established network, but with only five of the 51 designated sites having management plans. In the Cayman Islands, a system exists for marine protected areas but not for the terrestrial locations, and management is broken up between government management and management by NGOs or statutory bodies such as the National Parks Trust. In the Dutch OCTs, most of the protected area management is carried out by NGOs that receive a government subsidy; there is no formal network, but the DCNA provides an important coordination and support mechanism and is, for all practical purposes, a network of protected area management agencies.

Where they are of global importance, the protected areas of the OCTs have been included in international systems such as the World Heritage Sites of the Canary Islands, Madeira, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Reunion Island and Tristan da Cunha. All but one of the UK OCTs (BAT) is included in the UK's ratification of the Ramsar Convention, which has been further strengthened by the Overseas Territories Environmental Charters signed in 2001. Many of the UK OCTs have designated Ramsar sites in recognition of their global importance. Following a review in 2003 of existing and potential Ramsar sites in the Overseas Territories, some additional designations have taken place. The latest sites to be designated by the UK were Gough Island and Inaccessible Island in the Territory of Tristan da Cunha (South Atlantic) in November 2008.

In the case of OCTs, funding constraints have affected management effectiveness and enforcement. There is often a long lag period in-between designation of a site and allocation of funds for management. Many protected areas have tried to be self-supporting through the use of fees from diving and entrance charges, but this is often not sufficient, as it is subject to fluctuation and it makes them highly dependent on tourism use for sustainability. Where government subsidies – from national budgets – are used to supplement income, grants and subsidies are often not received on a sufficiently regular and timely basis for maintaining effective management and conservation work.

In the past, particularly in the case of OCTs, much research was conducted by external experts and information did not remain in country or territory. As a result, taxonomic expertise and information was not being built locally. However, programmes and processes now exist in some overseas entities, such as the Cayman Island's "Visiting researcher programme" where experts must apply for permission prior to undertaking their research and local persons are trained alongside.

In general, more needs to be done to establish baselines on the status of threatened species, especially in the countries and territories that have not undergone the BAP process.

Goal 2: Promote the conservation of island species diversity

2.1 Populations of taxonomic groups restored or their decline reduced

The decline of some "flagship species" of critically endangered taxonomic groups has been arrested due in large part to their protection within the borders of protected areas. Populations of many of the flagship species may only ever reach stable sizes but they have been saved from the brink of extinction. An extensive array of recovery plans are now also in existence following the development of BAPs in ORs and OCTs, but it is too early to determine their effectiveness.

Nevertheless, there is still a huge task to recover populations of the large numbers of native and endemic species, and to improve their critical status and range. In the Azores, for example, 60 percent of the top 100 priority species have experienced a reduction in population size. In terms of their distribution area, 73 percent are facing a reduction.

2.2.Status of threatened island species improved

Numerous inventories and studies of island species exist, many of which have been used to inform or have been instigated as a result of the BAP processes. In islands which have not yet developed a BAP, information on status of species is patchier. However, in general there is good recognition of where gaps in data exist.

Goal 3: Promote the conservation of island genetic diversity

3.1 Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, valuable species and associated local knowledge maintained

Work towards this target is mixed and generally lacking, as awareness of this aspect of biodiversity is relatively low and its importance is not sufficiently recognized. Reports from the Dutch OCTs, for example, show that a significant amount of work was done to document local landraces, but a lack of action has resulted in the near disappearance of some landraces of livestock. This would suggest the need for greater cooperation between biodiversity conservation agencies and agricultural research and development departments.

However, a good example is the Macaronesian islands that have a collaborative project aiming to preserve the genetic heritage of these islands. The Canary Islands have an official catalogue of indigenous races and measures in place for their conservation. In Madeira, the ISOPlexis/Germobanco project is cataloguing and preserving local agricultural crops.

Goal 4: Promote sustainable use and consumption

4.1 Island biodiversity based products derived from sustainably managed sources

In general, modernization in lifestyles means that the use of traditional products derived from biodiversity has been in decline, thereby reducing pressure on biodiversity sources. In the Canary Islands, certification to demonstrate that products produced locally are derived from sustainably managed sources has promoted good practice and awareness.

4.2 Unsustainable consumption of island biodiversity reduced

Many islands have implemented fishing quotas and closed seasons for species that are commercially valuable to prevent overfishing. In addition, fishing licences and legislation to prevent certain types of disruptive fishing practices, such as spear guns, have been implemented. Mooring buoys are now standard practice for anchoring on many ORs and OCTs. In Bonaire, for example, divers are not allowed to use gloves and should avoid touching corals at all times.

Enforcement at all levels however remains a challenge. In addition, monitoring of the impact of quotas and closed seasons is not presently undertaken in any systematic way in all regions. There are also concerns of illegal fishing in the EEZ of the South Atlantic islands by foreign ships, but control has improved in recent years. In the EEZ of the TAAF, fishing quotas for the Chilean sea bass are based on stock assessments, fisheries are monitored and illegal fishing is actively tackled.

4.3 Endangered wild flora and fauna protected from international trade

All EU countries with ORs and OCTs are signatories to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Whilst most EU OCTs have CITES legislation and enforcement procedures in place, some are still subject to the CITES National Legislation Project (having not met the required level of compliance). They need to review their legislation and implementation of CITES in liaison with Member States to ensure that they will be compliant by CITES CoP16 in 2013.

Goal 5: Pressures from habitat loss, land-use change and degradation, and sustainable [sic] water use, reduced on islands

5.1 Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats significantly decreased

The establishment of protected areas is an important instrument against habitat loss, land-use change and degradation. However, in many ORs and OCTs, there is concern that use of biodiversity outside protected areas must be more sustainably managed. Sand mining, indiscriminate land clearance, waste disposal, tourism and real-estate development and damage due to overgrazing from livestock are some of the areas that are inconsistent with the conservation of biological diversity, but these are generally issues outside the control of conservation agencies.

In general, land-use plans make inadequate consideration of environment and biodiversity issues and are non-operational in many cases. Mandating the use of EIAs prior to development is gradually being enforced through the revision of land-use planning laws in the OCTs. However, current loopholes exist for circumventing the planning process even where EIAs are a legal requirement, such as the current debate in the BVI, where development plans above USD 10 million can be approved directly by the Premier.

Situations vary greatly between countries and territories. In Sint Maarten, for example, population pressure is very significant and there are hardly any natural habitats left as a result of real-estate and marina development during the last three decades, while New Caledonia still possesses large natural areas. The overall picture, however, is that the rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats in ORs and OCTs has not significantly decreased in recent years, and that this is one of the main challenges to biodiversity conservation at the moment.

Goal 6: Control threats to island biological diversity from invasive alien species

6.1 Pathways for major invasive alien species (IAS) identified and controlled

Awareness of the threat of invasive species has received much greater attention in the last 5 – 10 years. Being mostly islands, many ORs and OCTs are particularly vulnerable to invasive species and environments have been disrupted by the introduction of alien species over centuries.

The ORs have a well established programme to address issues of IAS. In Macaronesia, a database has been created under the INTERREG BIONATURA project, where at least 400 introduced species have been recorded and their pathways identified. In the French ORs and OCTs, a number of activities are underway, and the French National Committee of IUCN coordinates an initiative that involves all the overseas entities of France and is implemented in collaboration with a very wide range of actors. In the other overseas entities, controlling pathways is slowly being developed but in general is insufficient. This is tricky due to the coordination needed with a number of other authorities at air and sea ports and increased threats due to globalization of the trade in plants and ornamentals. Of particular mention is the SAISP which took a regional approach to the assessment of invasive populations and outlined the management requirements for IAS controls in the participating territories.

6.2 Management plans in place and implemented for alien species

BAP processes have led to the development of management plans for IAS control in the ORs and in some OCTs (e.g., Cayman Islands). The management of alien invasive species remains one of the main challenges facing conservation in EU overseas entities, notably in small uninhabited islands where eradication is difficult and harder to finance, because it does not benefit human livelihoods.

Goal 7: Address challenges to island biodiversity from climate change, and pollution

7.1 Resilience of components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change enhanced

There have been few specific actions towards this target, although it can be argued that efforts at protected area management always contribute to the resilience of ecosystems. A number of the better resourced conservation departments have now included a staff member or unit to deal with climate change-related issues (e.g., BVI and Cayman Islands). Management plans for protected areas now consider impacts of climate change in the Canary Islands and in general it is assumed that effective biodiversity conservation will improve resilience to climate change. This target may need greater support to be understood and implemented. Recent initiatives in support of this goal include the UK-funded project for its Caribbean OCTs entitled *Enhancing Capacity for Adaptation to Climate Change*, which aims to facilitate the development of National Action Plans for Adaptation to climate change (NAPAs) in UK OCTs. France has also conducted a consultation with its ORs and OCTs in the development of its NAPA.

7.2 Pollution and its impacts on island biodiversity reduced

In the ORs, the legislation and programmes that exist at the level of the EU Member State generally apply. In the OCTs, the situation is somewhat different, and many still lack a systematic plan for pollution control in specific relation to biodiversity, despite the serious threats from oil pollution, sewage and nutrient pollution in fresh and marine waters, and plastic dumping. Most work appears to have been reactive rather than precautionary. In recent years, the watershed management approach has become more widespread, with tangible benefits in pollution control. Programmes and incentives for energy efficiency have also had positive impacts.

Goal 8: Maintain capacity of island ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods

8.1 Capacity of island ecosystems to deliver goods and services improved

8.2 Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, health and food security maintained

It is generally assumed that existing conservation measures will contribute to effective ecosystem functioning and will consequently enhance the capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods, but most of the BAPs and similar planning tools in overseas entities make little reference to livelihoods, and conservation in most EU overseas entities is not yet approached as an instrument to support sustainable livelihoods. As elsewhere, there are many linkages between biodiversity management and ecosystem goods and services in the EU overseas entities (watershed protection, nature tourism, fisheries, etc.), but these linkages are insufficiently recognized by local actors and are therefore not easily identified and measured.

Goal 9: Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities on islands

9.1 Measures to protect traditional knowledge promoted and facilitated

9.2 Traditional knowledge preserved, maintained, acknowledged and shared equitably

In general very little work has been done on this. There has been some collaborative work with public and private museums, National Trusts and archive departments which have documentation on traditional agricultural practices and cultural heritage.

There appears to be no legislation that protects local community rights over their traditional knowledge in the ORs and OCTs where the issue is relevant.

Goal 10: Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of island genetic resources

10.1 Access to genetic resources is in line with the CBD

10.2 Benefits arising from commercial and other utilization of island biodiversity are shared equitably

It is only recently that these issues have been given consideration in the ORs and OCTs. In France, for example, the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing (MEDDTL) has commissioned the *Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité* (FRB – Foundation for Biodiversity Research) to conduct a study on the conditions of access to and sharing of the benefits of biodiversity. Following agreement of the CBD ABS Protocol at Nagoya, EU Member States will need to undertake some work to establish what implications this might have for the EU OCTs as potential users and more importantly as potential hosts of genetic resources.

Goal 11: Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention

11.1 New and additional financial resources allocated to islands

Financing of biodiversity conservation remains a serious concern in the EU overseas entities, even if some progress has been made in accessing new and additional resources. In the OCTs that do not receive a national government allocation for conservation actions or from the EU, local agencies have been able to source additional resources from grants – a few international and some from regional funding sources although the opportunities for external funding for OCTs is very limited. Some National Trusts, such as the National Trust of the Cayman Islands, have been very successful

in securing substantial gift donations. The UK OCTs are benefiting from a new Challenge Fund that has earmarked funding for projects in these entities.

11.2 Technologies transferred to SIDS to allow for effective programme implementation

In the UK OCTs, there are collaborative working arrangements for species conservation work between international NGOs, government departments and local NGOs. Considerable technology cooperation is also taking place between the ORs and OCTs and their respective EU Member States.

11.3 Capacities to implement programme strengthened

The BAP preparation process, while it is a big task for small conservation and environment departments to take on, has clearly helped to build capacity in the respective agencies.

The issue of succession and institutional knowledge management has been identified as needing higher priority in a number of overseas entities, notably in the Dutch OCTs. Very few individuals, some nearing retirement, have a great deal of institutional knowledge that needs to be transferred.

In the case of French Guiana, there are a number of issues, challenges and opportunities that come from the specificity of local conditions. One of the main achievements of the past few years, in addition to those that concern all French ORs, is the creation of the National Park that covers roughly 40 percent of the territory, with a very rich biological diversity and the potential to contribute significantly to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as emphasized in the decisions of CBD COP 10. Because of this Region's rich biodiversity and the difficulty in ensuring effective control, trade in endangered species remains an issue in French Guiana. The impacts of gold mining, both legal and illegal, which represent one of the main threats to biodiversity, have been taken into account in some biodiversity planning processes, resulting for example in the recent cancellation of a major mining project. The overall plan for the mining sector has considered ecological and biodiversity issues. The preparation of the local BAP has allowed for consideration of the issue of equitable access to and sharing of resources and this is being taken into account in the formulation of the National Park's Charter.

In Greenland, the primary sources of impact on biodiversity are hunting, habitat fragmentation, invasive species and pollution, as well as the predicted impacts of climate change on ecosystems and species distribution. Growth in transportation activities, oil and gas exploration and mineral exploration will also have increased impacts on habitats and species. Meanwhile, climate change is likely to have dramatic impacts on species and habitats, but it is too early to tell if past and current management activities have an impact in this regard. With this rapid pace of change, Greenland recognizes the need for a number of management instruments and actions, including the identification of priority conservation areas, continued efforts towards sustainable hunting, the systematic use of EIA in all development projects, and the use of an ecosystem-based approach to management. The recent formulation of an NBSAP for Greenland is a major step towards a comprehensive and effective approach to biodiversity conservation.

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