

NET-BIOME as an effective tool for enhancing overseas regions and territories assets integration into European and international policies

*Contribution of Islands and Overseas Entities to biodiversity
conservation and the fight against climate change*

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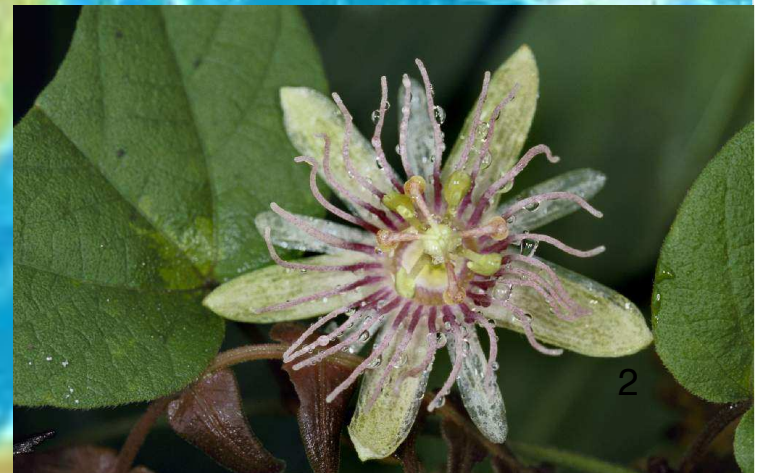
Vice-President of the Reunion Regional Council

Chair of Net-Biome Governing Board



Outline

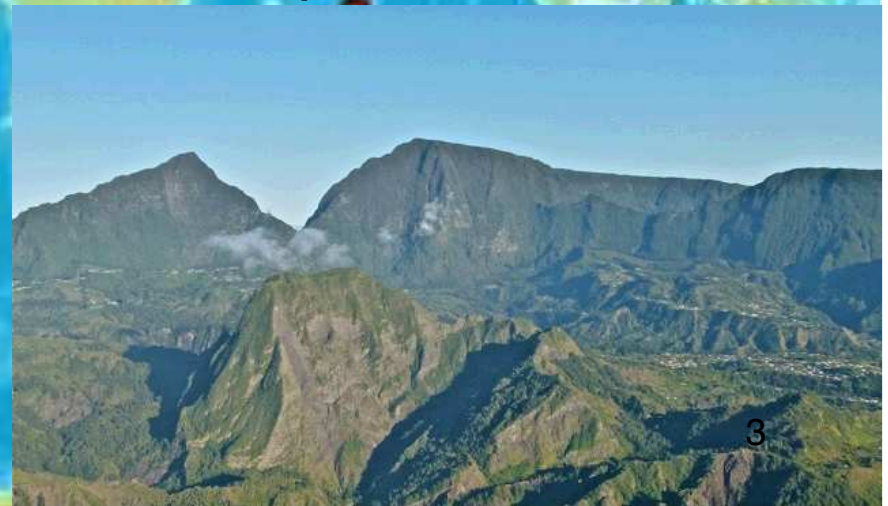
- Background and main features
- First achievements towards science based biodiversity preservation and sustainable use in support of development
- Mid and long term mission
- Brainstorming proposals



Background

- High level of biodiversity particularly threatened by climate change, human activities and natural hazards
- Biodiversity is fundamental for ORs OCTs economic, social and cultural development
- Current biodiversity research is fragmented and not recognised (poorly integrated in European Research Area)

Crucial need to translate an acquired consensus into an action plan on the basis of a shared and ambitious research programme

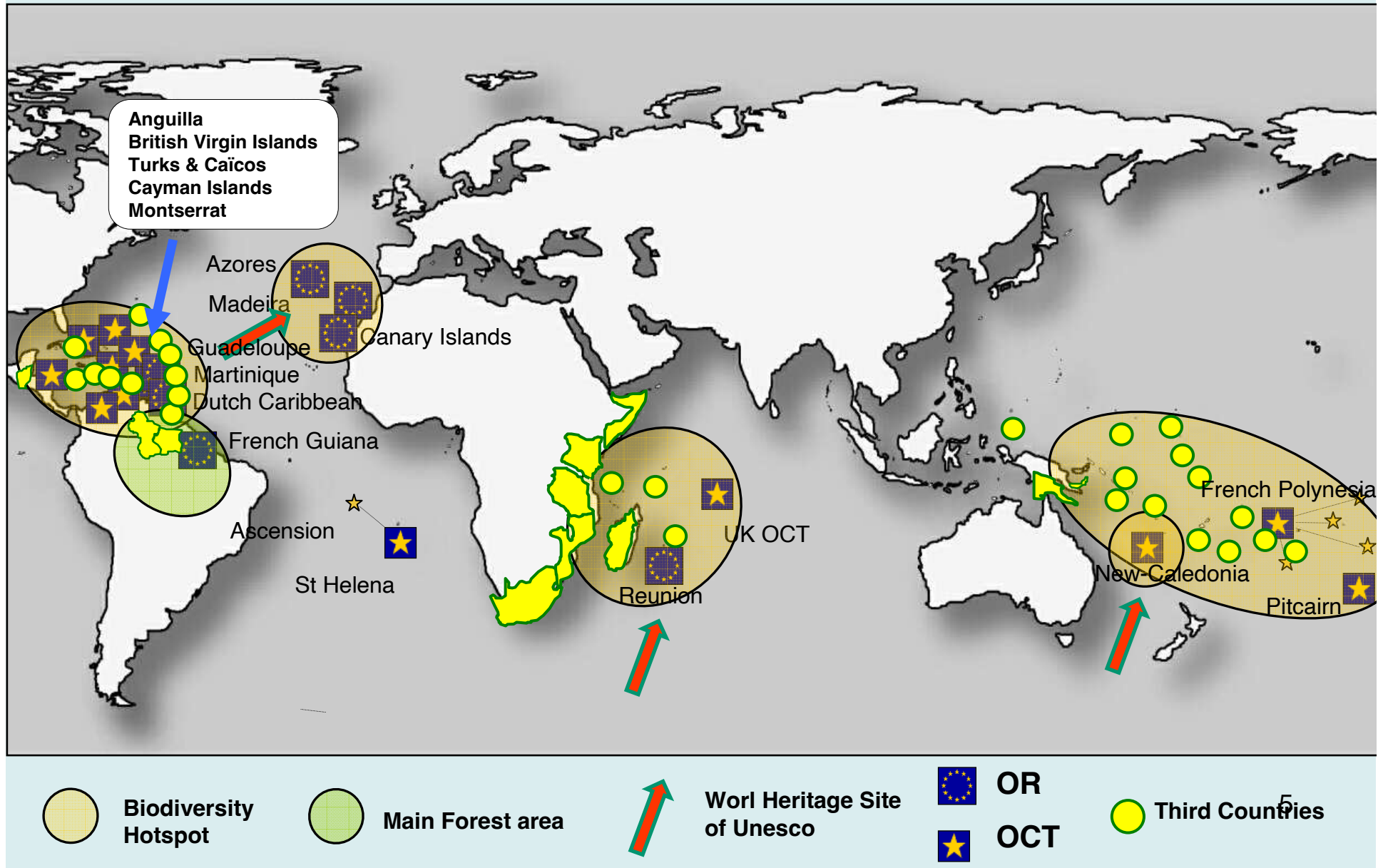


Definition and participants

- Networking of tropical and subtropical biodiversity research activities and stakeholders in Overseas regions and territories of Europe in support of sustainable development
- A **regional** ERA-Net project funded under EC FP6, **March 2007-End of February 2012** (2.5 M€)
- The first large biodiversity partnership **initiated by ORs and OCTs**, uniting most OCTs and ORs



Several hotspots & World natural heritage sites and many other realities and assets ...including very high potential for international cooperation





Overseas unity as Net-Biome first asset

Unite actors from different cultures and countries towards a common subject is possible thanks to:

- Common recognition of **responsibilities** towards ORs and OCTs populations and those of the rest of the world (largely under-estimated at European level)
- Common **will** to tackle the effects of global change on biodiversity
- Common **awareness** of ORs and OCTs assets



Objectives

- Coordinate research efforts from ORs and OCTs
- Mobilise bottom-up expertise on local research needs and promote Science-Policy interactions
- Design and implement common research strategy for T&ST biodiversity in support of sustainable development
- Open the network to Europe and the geographical regions concerned, promoting broad international cooperation
- Promote visibility and acknowledgement of the overseas regions and territories key role





Networking tropical and subtropical
Biodiversity research in OuterMost
regions and territories of Europe
in support of sustainable development

Net-Biome First Research Joint Call

**Towards Biodiversity Management in support of Sustainable
Development in Tropical and Subtropical European Union**

- **Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity**
- **Enhance Land Management and Integrated Coastal Zone Management**
- **Promoting knowledge of biodiversity (from gene to ecosystem level and through to lanscape)**

**Interdisciplinary cooperation, integration
or focus on Human & social sciences**



First results

- 10 funding partners including 2 national funding agencies and 8 Net-Biome partners (own funds)
- 3.14 M€ virtual common pot, 8.11 M€ as total costs of the funded projects (leverage effect)
- 20% rate of success: **7 projects**
- **funded** out of 35 submitted
- 52 research teams involved





Networking tropical and subtropical
Biodiversity research in Outermost
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Selected projects (7)

Acronym	Title	Consortium
FRAG&BINV	Consequences of forest fragmentation and conditions for biological invasions: the case of Caribbean birds	France , Martinique, French Guiana, Portugal, United Kingdom (Montserrat)
Island-Biodiv	Understanding biodiversity dynamics in T&ST islands as an aid to science based conservation	Canary Islands , Reunion, France, Azores
MOVECLIM	Montane vegetation as listening post for climate change	Reunion , Guadeloupe, Azores, French Polynesia, Canary Islands, France, South Africa, Switzerland, Germany, Malaysia
SEAPROLIF	Diversity and functioning of coastal marine biomes under siege: implications of seaweed proliferations across three oceans	New-Caledonia , Reunion, Guadeloupe, Portugal, France, Azores



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Selected projects (7)

Acronym	Title	Consortium
SafePGR	Towards Safer Plant Genetic Resources through improved viral diagnostics	Guadeloupe , France, Reunion, Azores, Madeira
VABIOME	Characterisation, Protection, Sustainable use and valorisation of Vanilla Biodiversity in Tropical EU	Reunion , French Polynesia, France, French Guiana, France, Guadeloupe, Mayotte
POMARE	Polynesian, Martinique's, Reunion's marine benthic invertebrates: interactions and chemodiversity evaluation for a sustainable use	French Polynesia , Reunion, Martinique, Nederland, United-Kingdom, France

Net-Biome mid and long term mission

Further to the first Joint Call:

- Develop high level quality management of research supported towards effective translation of findings in biodiversity preservation and sustainable use
- Address the limits shown to fully use of ORs and OCTs' assets alongside demonstration of high potential and will of overseas actors to unite their capacities



Net-Biome mid and long term mission

- Acknowledgement of ORs and OCTs' research strategic plan by the MS and integration in European initiatives (e.g. Horizon 2020)
- Enhance research networking on T&ST biodiversity and reinforce research of excellence through other joint activities
- Pave the road for a long-term and coherent programme for tropical and subtropical biodiversity research addressing ORs and OCTs
- Continue to implement several EC communications and strategies as well as the « Message of Reunion Island » set up with Net-Biome participation



Brainstorming proposals

- Adequate research funding: a new tool towards associated ORs and OCTs
- Proper funding mechanism and legal framework for cooperation between ORs and OCTs and their neighbouring countries
- Governance framework gathering all stakeholders from local to international level
- Representation of the ORs and OCTs' stakeholders in relevant European, international and regional fora
- Use Net-Biome as ORs and OCTs' common voice at global level





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Coordinated efforts are the key to efficiency
As shown by nature itself



**Taking full benefit of Net-Biome growing overseas network
to integrate European and international biodiversity policies**

Thank you for your attention