

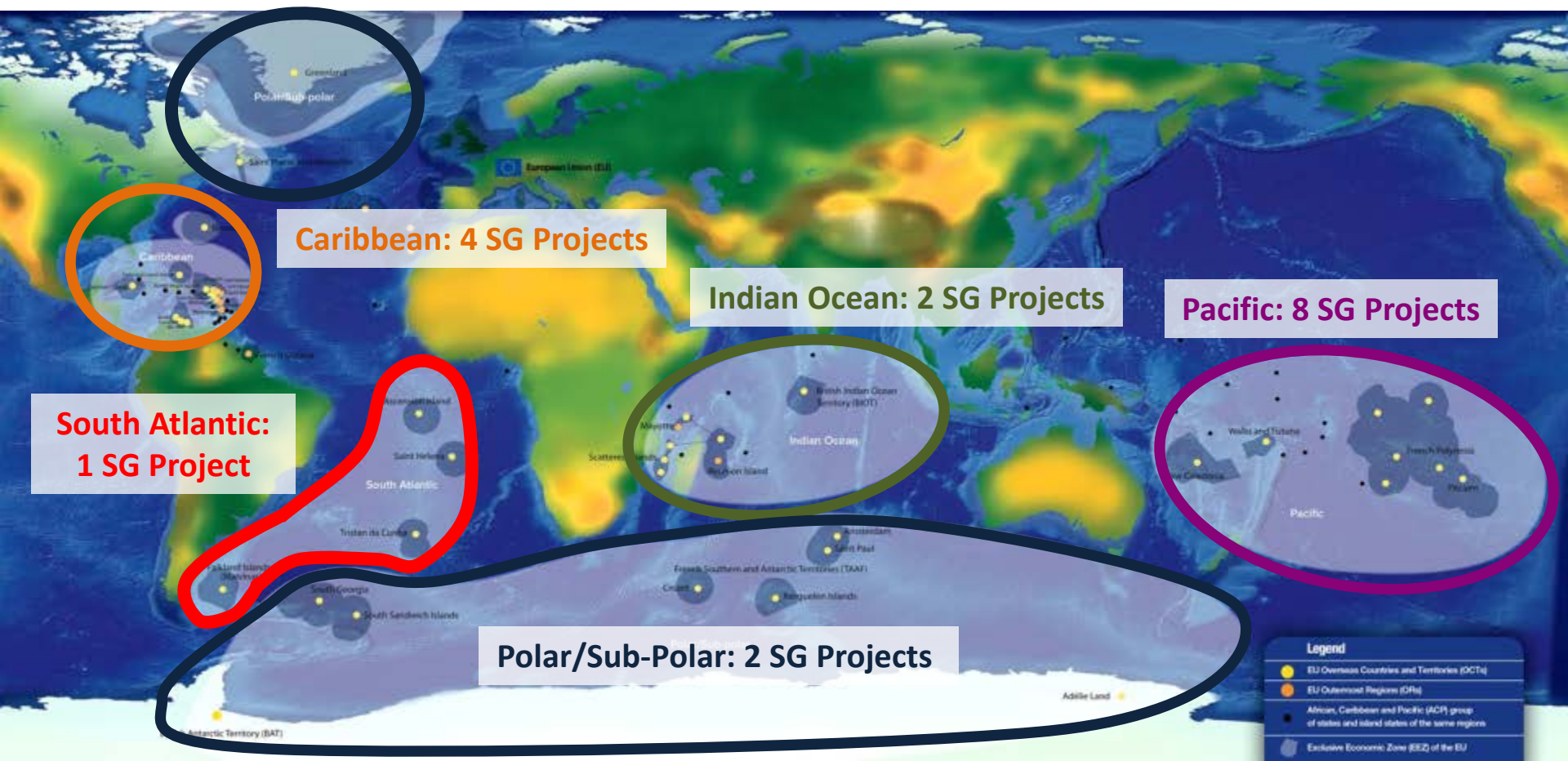
# BEST

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



## New Projects Funded by BEST 2.0

2017 Small Grant (SG) Calls for Proposals



An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. In the foreground, a dark, rocky cliff edge is visible on the left. The ocean is a deep blue, with a lighter turquoise bay area. A small peninsula with a sandy beach and some buildings is visible in the middle ground. To the right, a large, multi-story resort building with a green roof is situated on a hillside. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue with a few wispy white clouds on the right side.

# CARIBBEAN

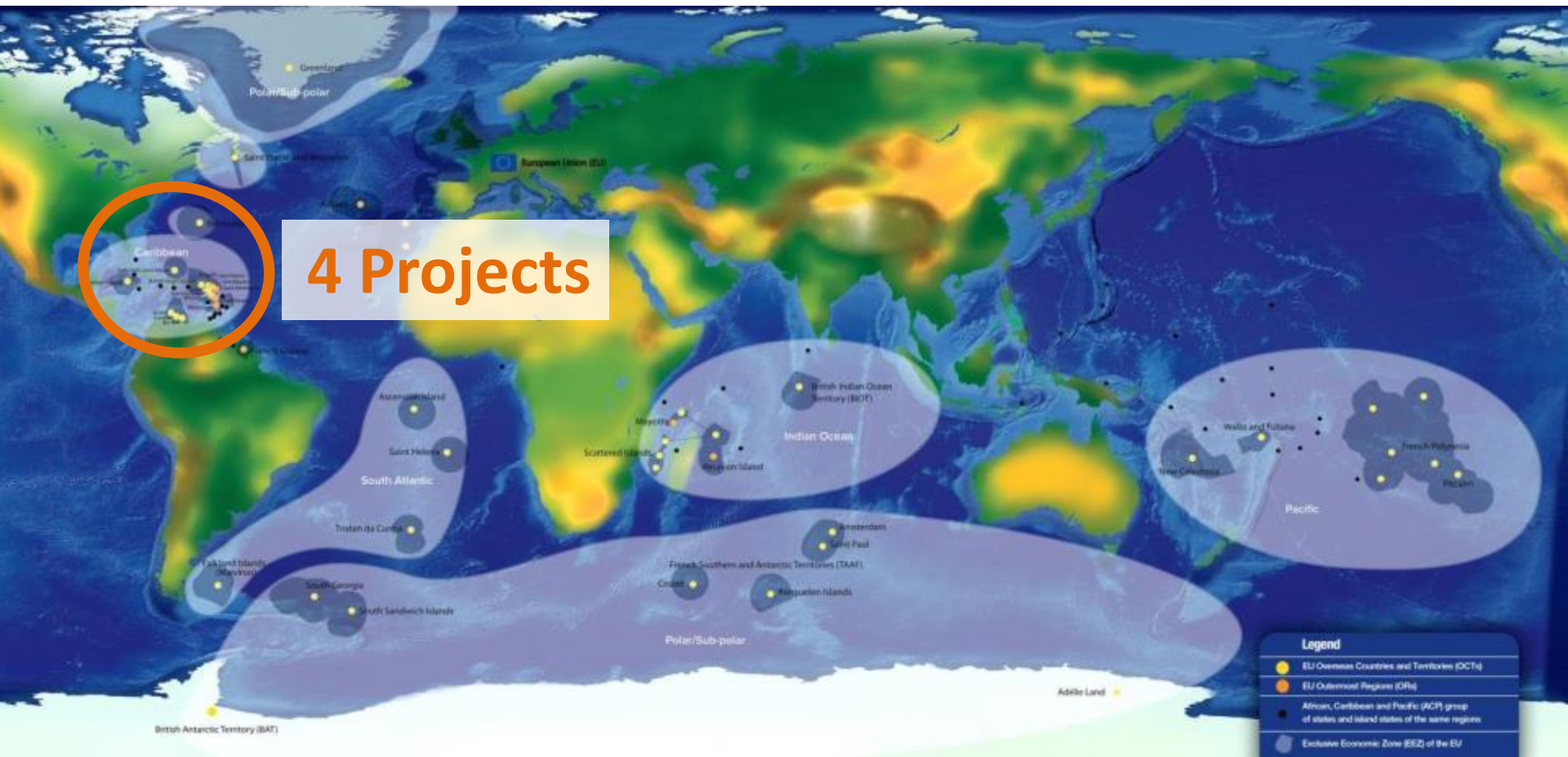


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## New Projects in the Caribbean Region (Small Grants)

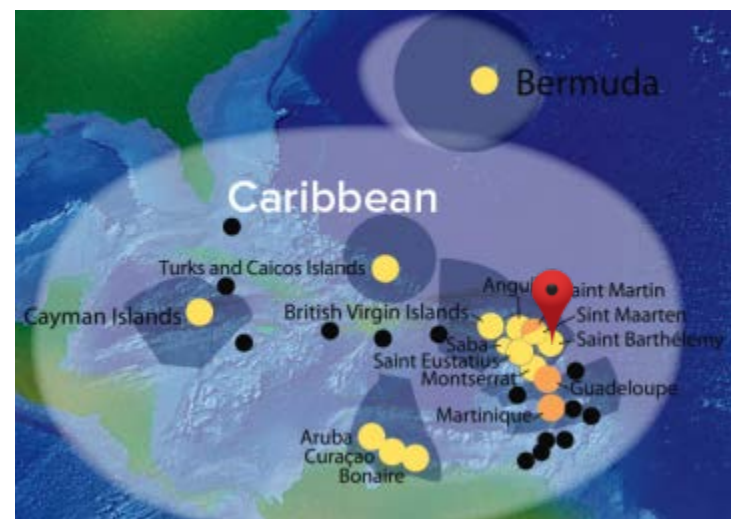


# Project: **Best of sharks and rays in Saint-Barths**



Location: **Saint-Barthélemy**

**Project lead:** Agence Territoriale de l'Environnement de Saint-Barthélemy



## **Aim of the project:**

To adjust, develop and promote conservation measures for elasmobranchs in Saint-Barthélemy by:

- Increasing biological, ecological and socio-economic knowledge
- Developing an action plan for the conservation of elasmobranchs
- Raising the public's and other stakeholders' awareness of the need for sharks and rays conservation



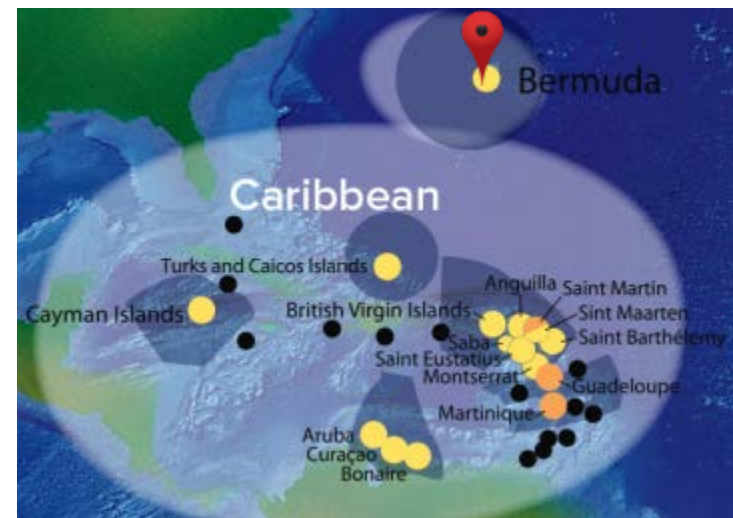
# Project: Assessing the utility of lionfish traps for preserving biodiversity by managing invasive populations

Location: **Bermuda**

**Project lead:** Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences

## Aim of the project:

To determine whether specially designed lionfish traps can increase the efficiency of removal efforts while maintaining a negligible by-catch, thereby providing a cost effective (ecologically and financially) mechanism to continuously supply lionfish to the market.



© Steve Gittings/NOAA



© Timothy Noyes

# Project: Promoting and enhancing the ecological and economic value of Anguilla's marine parks: piloting the Little Bay Marine Park restoration project



Location: **Anguilla**

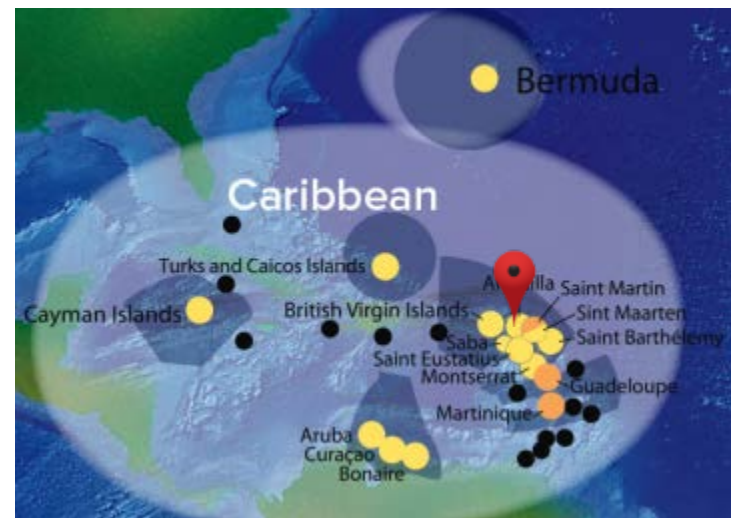
**Project lead:** Anguilla National Trust

## **Aim of the project:**

To create an artificial habitat for critical reef species through the construction and deployment of lobster casitas within the Little Bay Marine Park (LBMP). The sanctuary will also provide critical habitat to other reef fish, sea turtle, and coral reef species. The project will diversify LBMP's value through awareness raising and providing alternative livelihood opportunities (eco-tourism) to fishers.



© Stuart Wynne



© Farah Mukhida

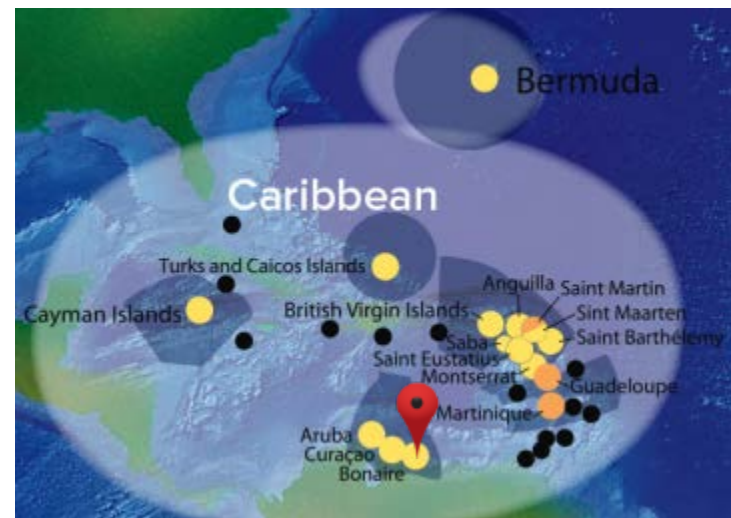


# Project: Pop-Up Nursery and Coral Restoration



Location: **Bonaire**

**Project lead:** Coral Restoration Foundation Bonaire



## Aim of the project:

To restore the Elkhorn coral population of a depauperated reef area of approximately 500m<sup>2</sup> within the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) boundaries, increasing the species abundance and genotypic diversity. A “pop-up” coral nursery will be set on site and removed at the end of the project allowing, in 8 months, for the propagation of 700 corals of 14 different genotypes.



An underwater photograph of a coral reef. In the foreground, a large, rounded brain coral with a complex, maze-like pattern is the central focus. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through. In the background, other types of coral, including some with small, dark fish swimming around them, are visible. The overall scene is vibrant and detailed.

# INDIAN OCEAN

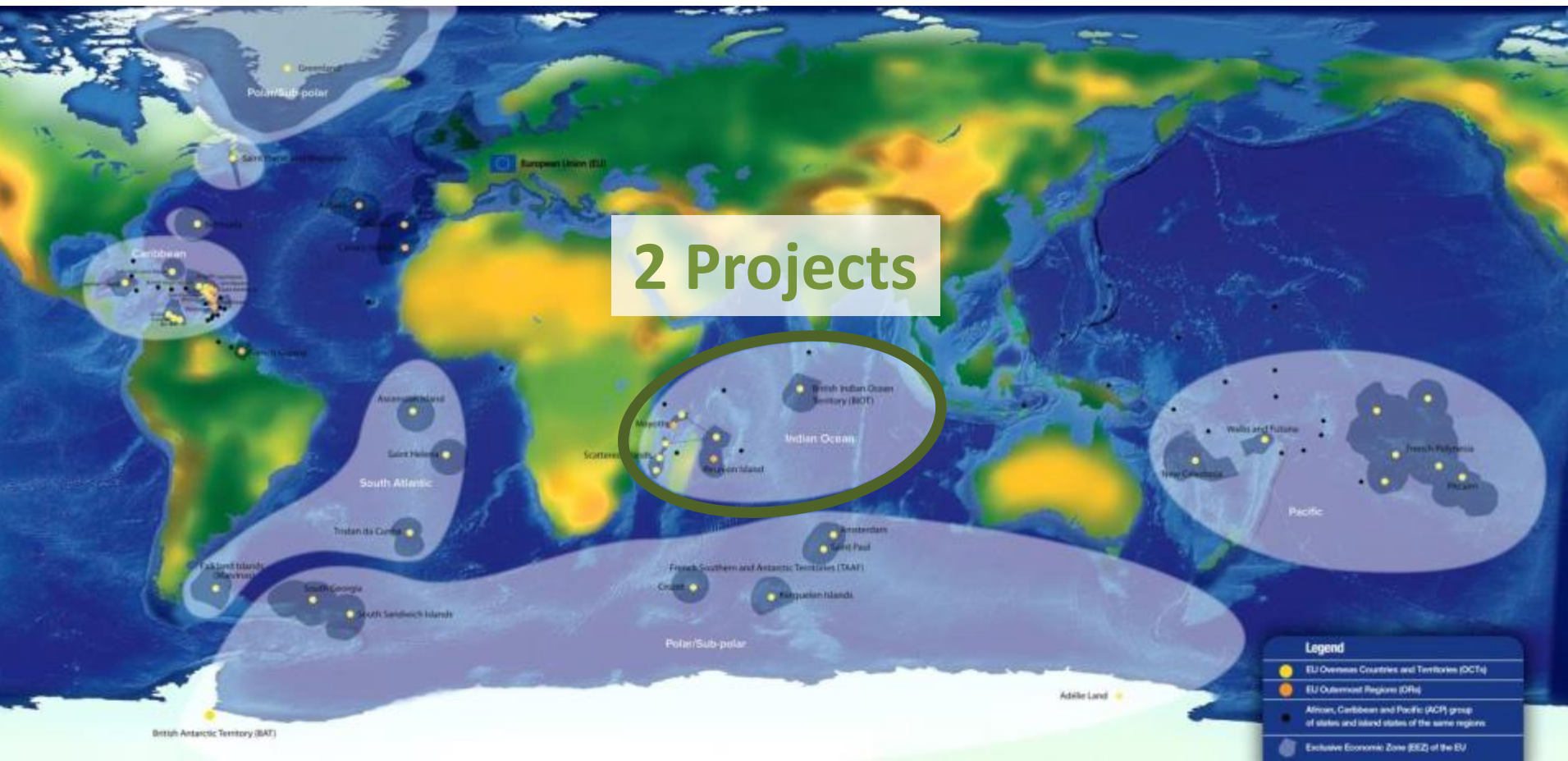


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## New Projects in the Indian Ocean Region (Small Grants)



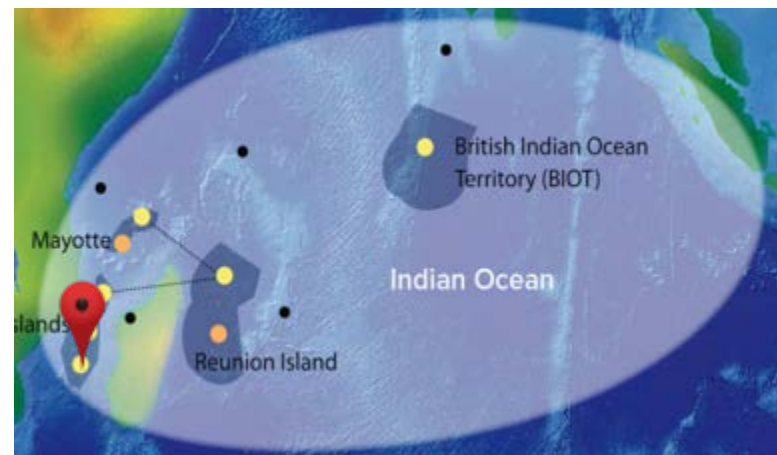
# Project: CORCOPA: Optimising Conservation of Europa's Coral Reefs by Eco-Acoustics



Location: **Scattered Islands, Europa**



**Project lead:**  
Université de  
La Réunion



## **Aim of the project:**

To strengthen and sustain the technical capacities of the TAAF for the management of the coral ecosystems of the Scattered islands by setting up an innovative, operational and inexpensive monitoring tool using eco-acoustics. The eco-acoustic approach will use passive recording of the "sound landscape" of coral reefs to determine the status of the reefs.



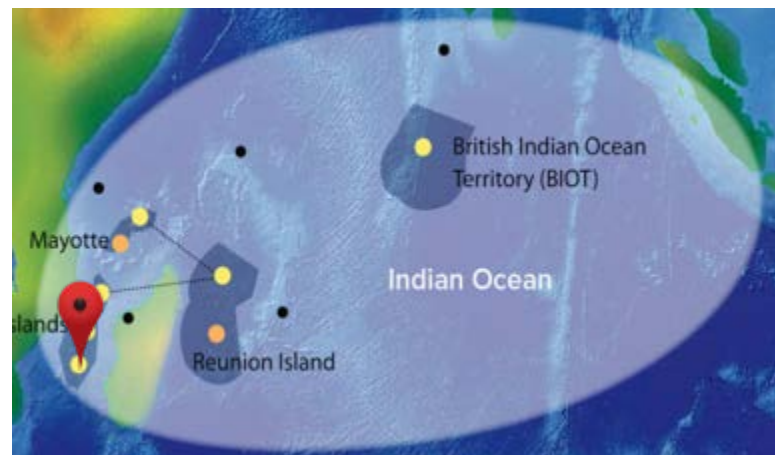


# Project: **PRODVEGEUR: Development of an autonomous plant production unit for the restoration of habitats and the biological reinforcement of populations of plant species on the island of Europa**



Location: **Scattered Islands,**  
**Europa**

**Project lead:** Conservatoire Botanique National de Mascarin



## **Aim of the project:**

To install in situ a functional plant production unit on Europa to support ecological restoration operations on the island and to build the capacity of TAAF, responsible for the implementation of the overall environmental action for the site, in the propagation and breeding methods of native species.



An aerial photograph of a tropical island with a dark blue rectangular overlay in the center. The word "PACIFIC" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters within the overlay. The background shows a clear blue sky with light clouds, a turquoise lagoon, and a small, dark, rocky island in the foreground. The water transitions from a deep blue to a lighter turquoise near the shore, indicating a shallow reef flat or lagoon. The island in the foreground has a small, dark, rocky outcrop in the center.

# PACIFIC



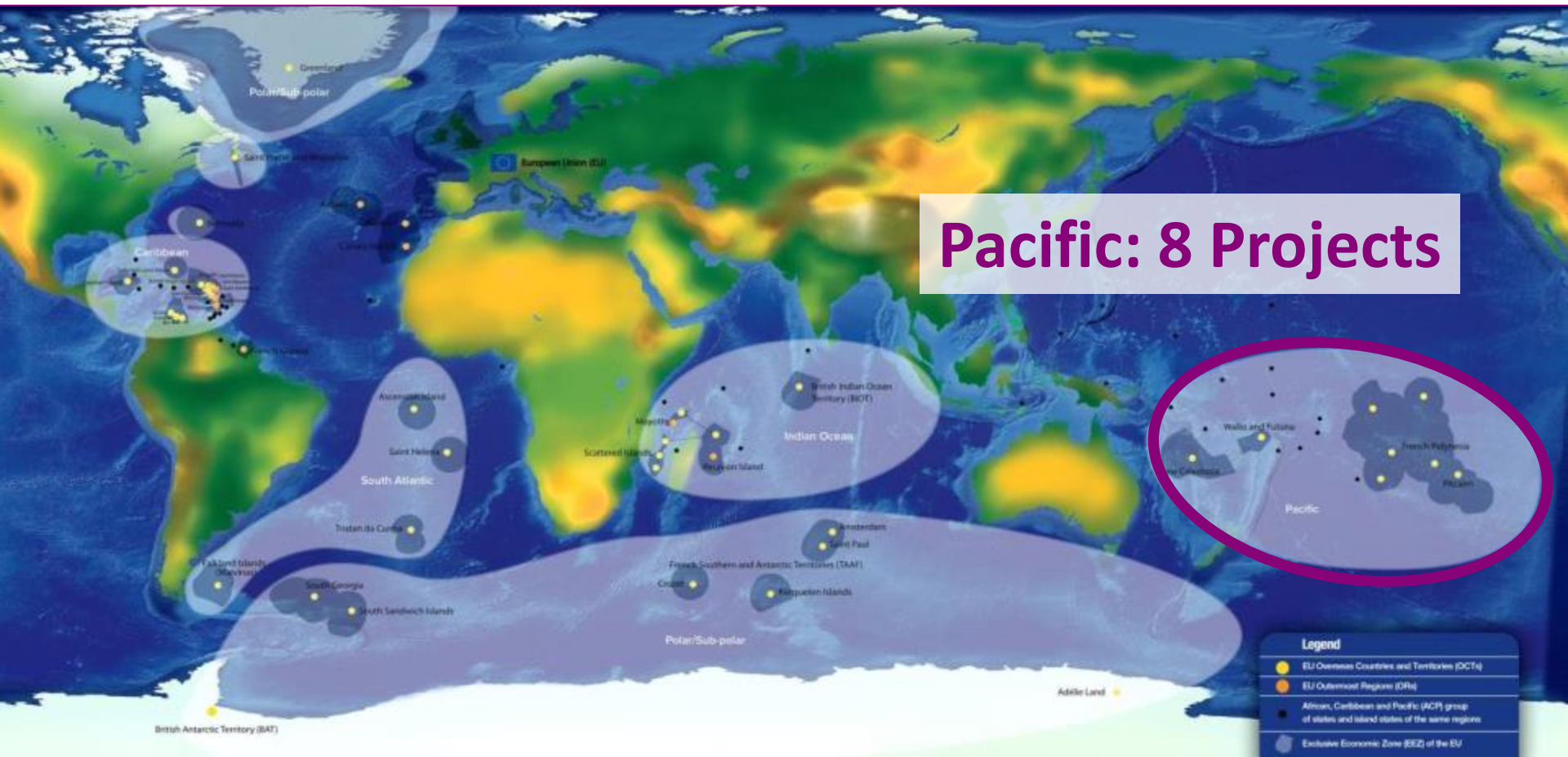
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## New Projects in the Pacific Region

*(Small Grants)*



# Project: RECOFOR : REgulation of deer for the COnservation of FORests

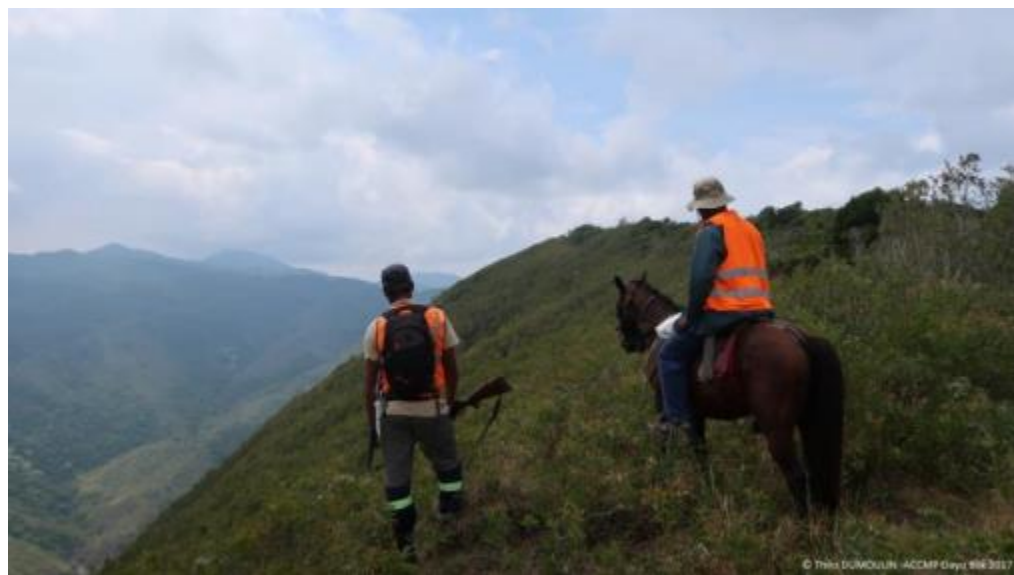
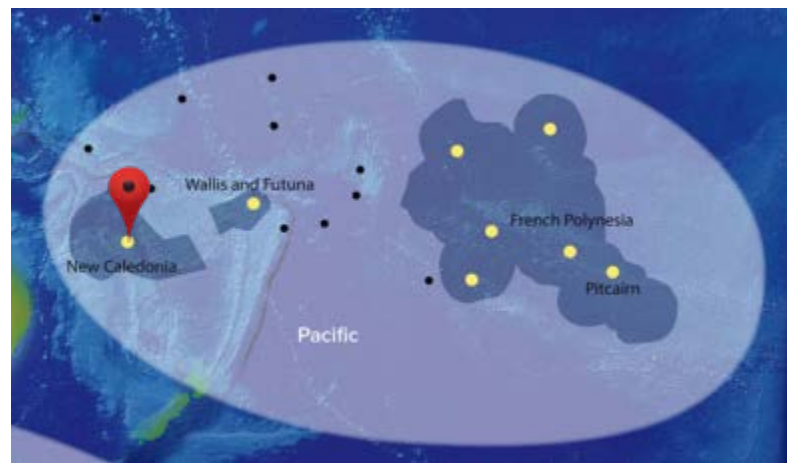


Location: **New Caledonia**

**Project lead:** Association pour la Conservation en  
Cogestion du Mont Panié DAYU BIIK

## **Aim of the project:**

To renew the control of deer within the  
Mount Panié Reserve using a helicopter  
– an approach previously demonstrated  
to be efficient and effective – thereby  
creating a regulated zone of around  
4000 hectares with a significantly  
reduced deer population. The project  
will also reinforce the capacity within  
New Caledonia in this method of  
control.



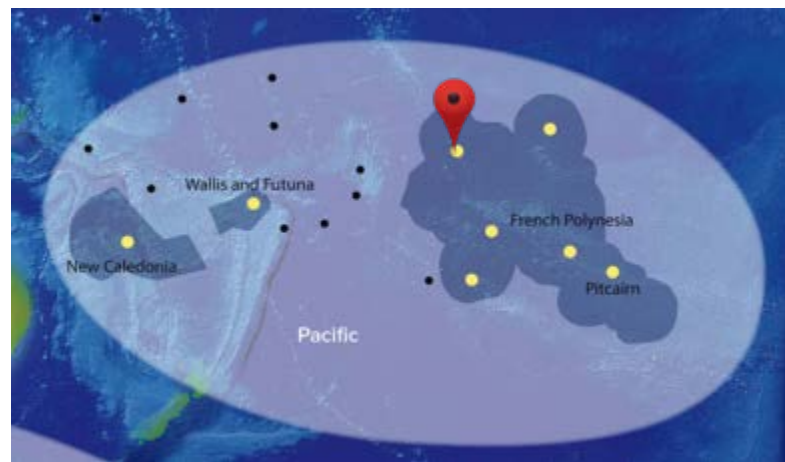


# Project: Restoration of Small Basins on the Plateau of Te Mehani rahi



Location: **French Polynesia**

**Project lead:** Association Tuihana



## **Aim of the project:**

To restore the exceptional vegetation of the small basin slopes (<10 hectares in total) of the Te Mehani plateau on the island of Raiatea. The slopes, found at an altitude of >600m are home to 33 endemic plants, but are threatened by invasive plant species. The project will conduct a survey of the sites, undertake actions to tackle the invasive plant species and establish a nursery to provide native plants to be replanted.

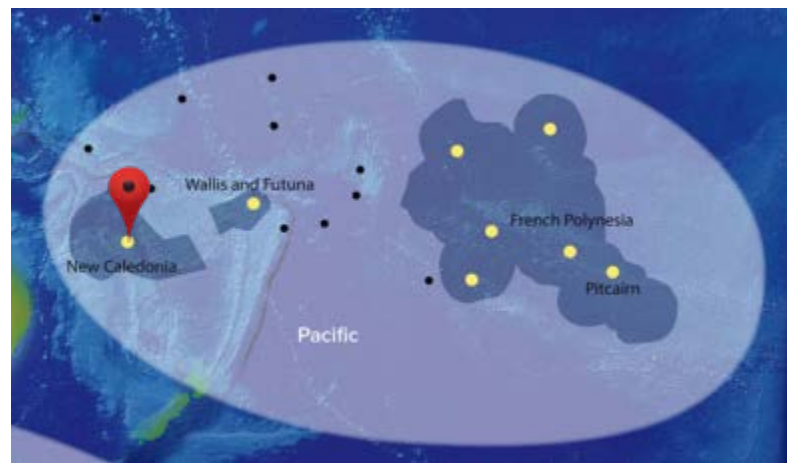
# Project: NEREIS: Conservation of the Fairy Tern *Sternula nereis exsul*



Location: **New Caledonia**

**Project lead:**

Province  
Nord



## **Aim of the project:**

To improve the conservation status of Fairy Terns in the North Province by:

- improving protocols, tools and monitoring capacity;
- proposing ways of dealing with the known causes of reproduction failures;
- increasing the sense of ownership and level of sensitivity in local communities;
- creating a sanctuary in a site known to be regularly used by breeding terns.



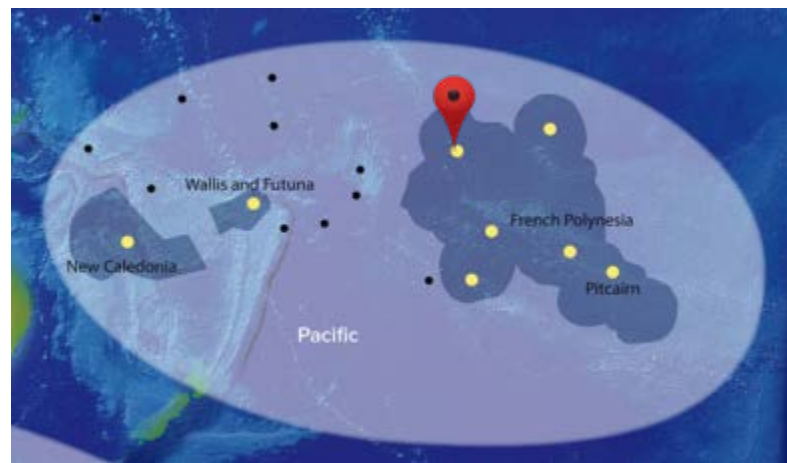


# Project: **AGRISUB: Organic Farming Substrates for the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Carbon Sequestration and the Control of Invasive Species**



Location: **French Polynesia**

**Project lead:** Vaihuti Fresh



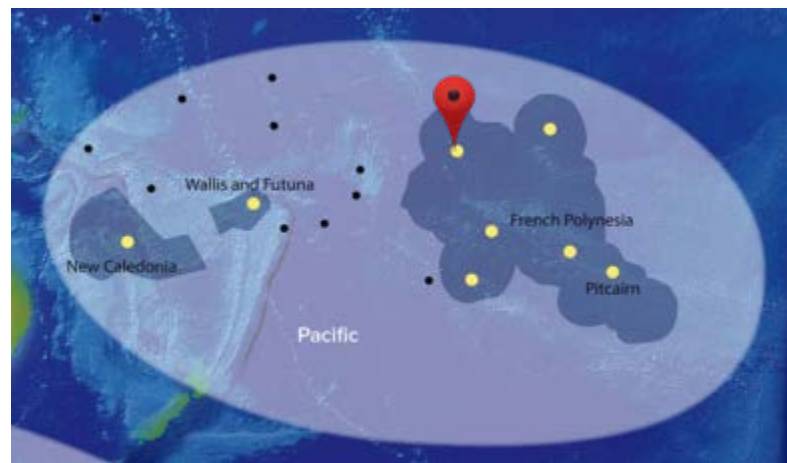
## **Aim of the project:**

To create alternative cultivation substrates that, in conjunction with agroecology practices, will limit the impact on coral reefs due to erosion and sedimentation. Recent studies have shown that the use of compost and charcoal (biochar) in soils could improve crop yields while increasing carbon sequestration in soils. The project will use natural resources, particularly the biomass of invasive plant species, for the compost and biochar production of these crop substrates. It will also demonstrate the technical and economic viability of their use to encourage uptake by farmers.

# Project: Development of the Network of Educational Managed Marine Areas in 5 Schools of French Polynesia

Location: **French Polynesia**

**Project lead:** Fédération des Associations de Protection de l'Environnement de Polynésie française



## Aim of the project:

To contribute to the development of the network of educational managed marine areas (EMMAs) through the creation of EMMAs in 5 new schools. The project will undertake an characterisation of the initial ecological states of the 5 areas, involve the schools in the acquisition of scientific knowledge and undertake a range of communication activities.



# Project: Necessity of Safeguarding the Terrestrial Environment of Rapa



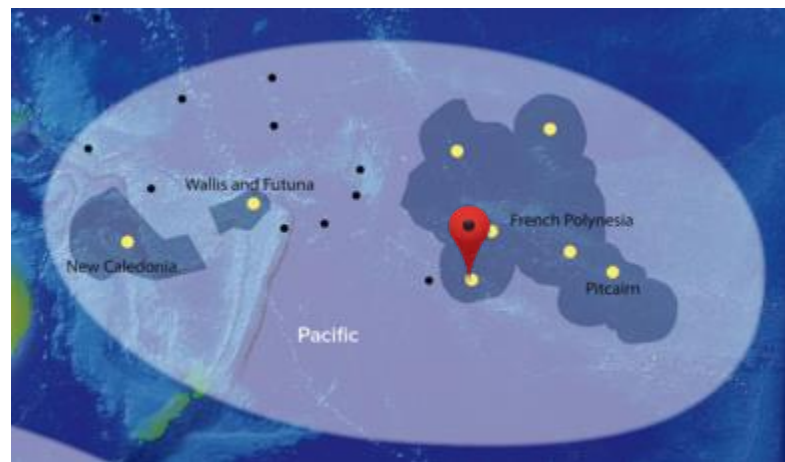
Location: **French Polynesia**

**Project lead:** Raumatariki (Rapa)

## **Aim of the project:**

To protect the terrestrial ecosystem of Rapa by:

- developing biosecurity measures against the black rat;
- defining key forest areas on the island that will be protected;
- building the capacity of the inhabitants of Rapa to protect their terrestrial environment.



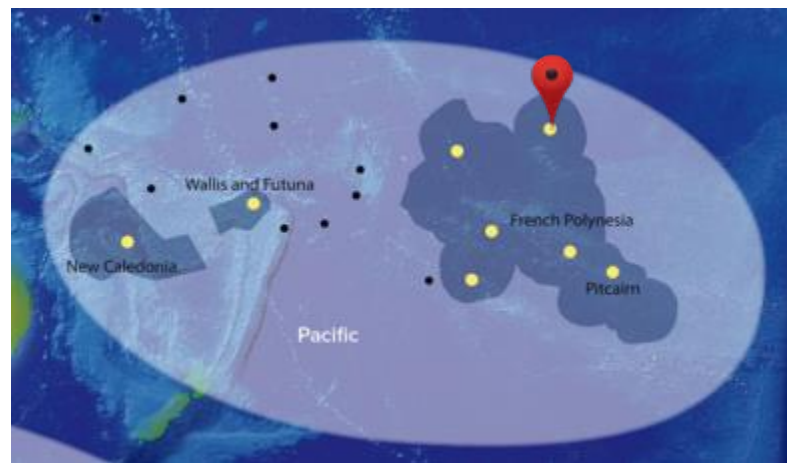
# Project: Safeguarding the Rare and Threatened Birds of Ua Huka



Location: **French Polynesia**



**Project lead:**  
Vaiku'a i te manu  
o Ua Huka



## **Aim of the project:**

To protect the natural biodiversity of Ua Huka Island by strengthening the capacity of local organisations by undertaking a census of threatened birds and the threats against them and transferring know-how to local teams, training biosecurity agents and implementing a range of awareness raising activities.



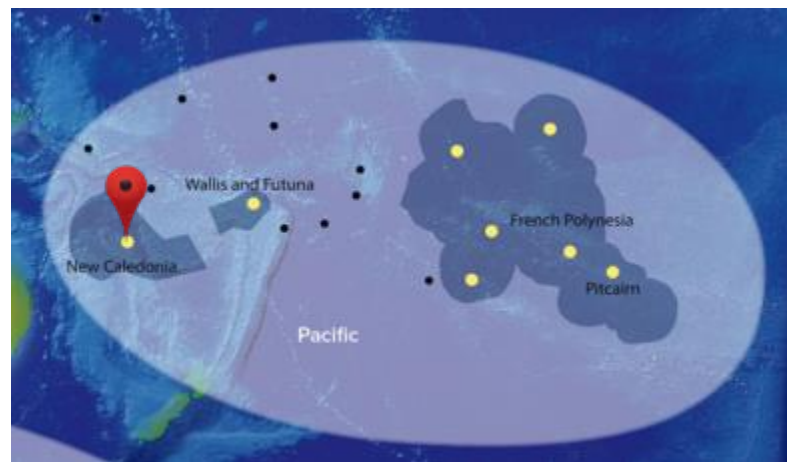


# Project: Strengthening the Participative and Integrated Management of the UNESCO Site of Touho



Location: **New Caledonia**

Project lead: Association Hô-Ût



## Aim of the project:

To strengthen the management of the UNESCO site through the implementation of participatory actions involving the local population and organized by the Hô-Ût management association responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Management Plan. The actions will focus on improving knowledge of the site's mangroves, identification of degraded areas to be rehabilitated and training of the associations members on mangrove monitoring, management and conservation.

A King penguin stands on a dark, rocky beach in the foreground. Behind it is a body of water, and further back is a massive glacier with visible blue ice layers. In the distance, jagged mountain peaks are covered in snow under a clear blue sky.

# POLAR/ SUB-POLAR

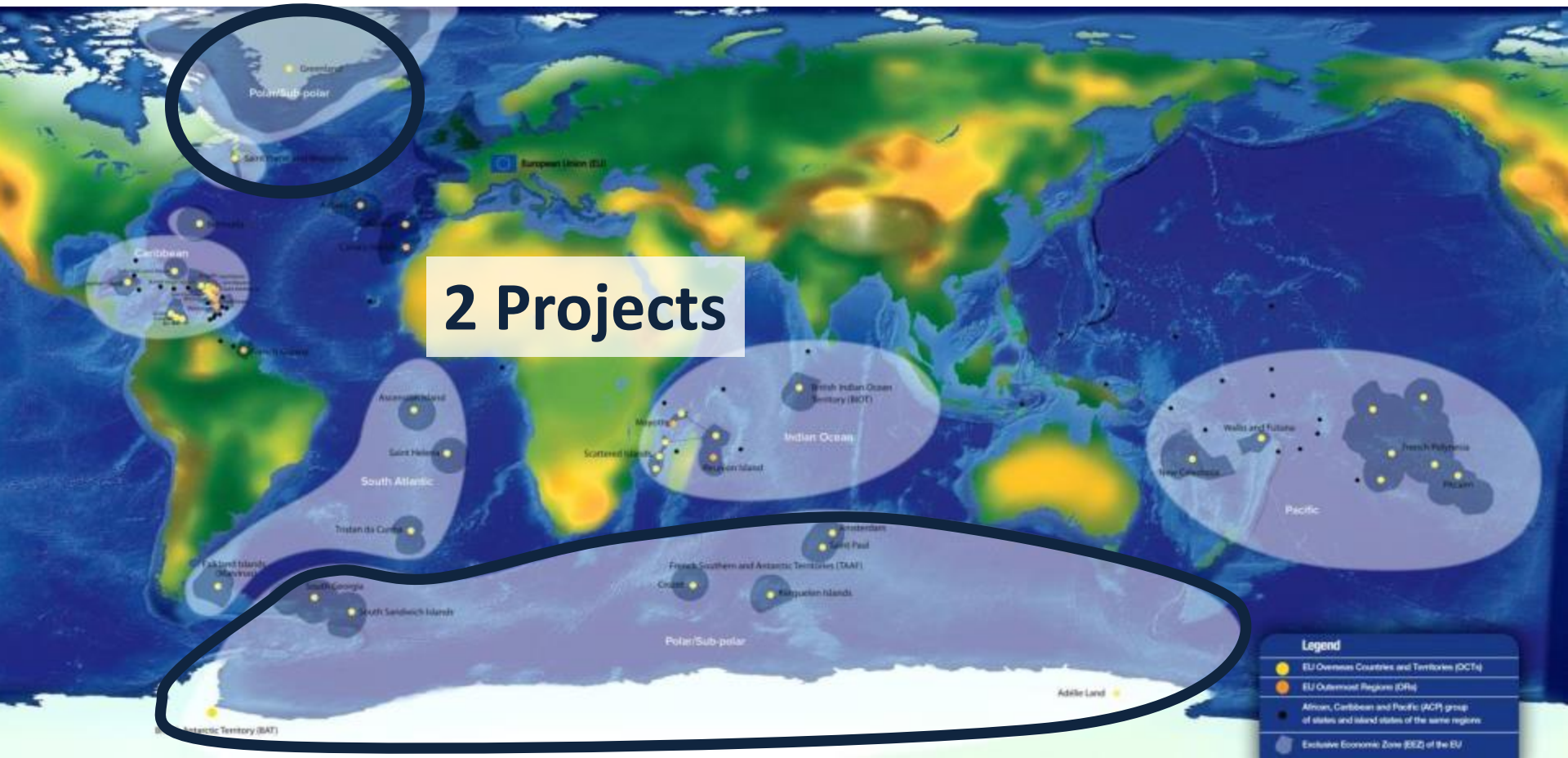


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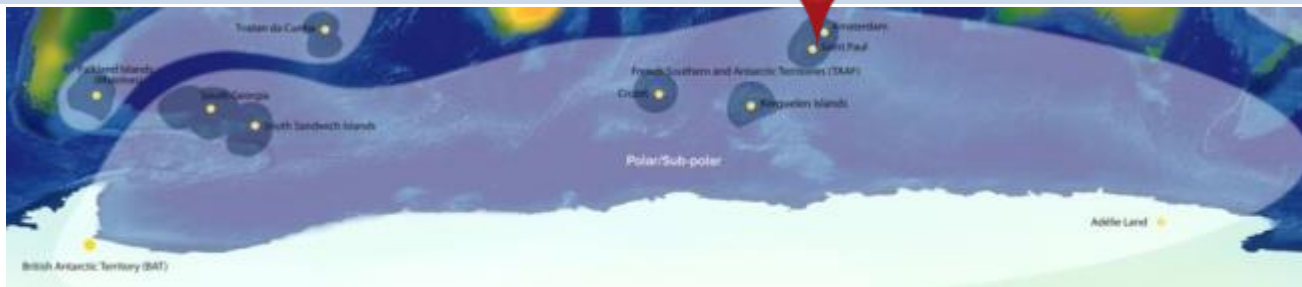
## New Projects in the Polar/Sub-Polar Region (Small Grants)



# Project: Conservation of Threatened Top Marine Predators of the French Southern Territories : Identifying Threats and Getting Essential Data (ITAGED)



**Location: TAAF,  
Amsterdam - St Paul  
islands**



**Project lead:** CNRS -  
Délégation régionale Centre  
Limousin Poitou-Charentes

## **Aim of the project:**

Determine the key marine habitats of 4 top predators:  
Northern Rockhopper Penguin, Indian Yellow-nosed  
Albatrosses, Sooty Albatross, & MacGillivray's Prion by:

1. Characterizing the key foraging habitats used by these predators during summer.
2. Creating habitat models for the Endangered Northern rockhopper penguin in order to predict changes in the locations of habitats under various climate change scenarios.
3. Obtain the first tracking data during some key biological stages for the MacGillivray's Prion.
4. Delimit marine Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas.





# Project: SECTOR: Significant Ecological areas for pElagic species and ConservaTion challenge in the sOutheRn indian ocean



## Location: TAAF, Crozet and Kerguelen



**Project lead:** Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique



## Aim of the project:

- Understand the current spatial patterns linked to critical habitats of mid-trophic organisms and hotspots of interactions with top predators in the South Indian ocean using analyses of acoustic measurements and samples of zooplankton and micronekton combined with biologging of seals and seabirds

=> Inform management and MPA implementation

A coastal landscape featuring a rocky shore in the foreground, covered with green vegetation. The ocean is visible in the middle ground, with waves breaking. The sky is filled with clouds, and a bright sun is visible in the upper right corner, creating a lens flare effect.

# SOUTH ATLANTIC

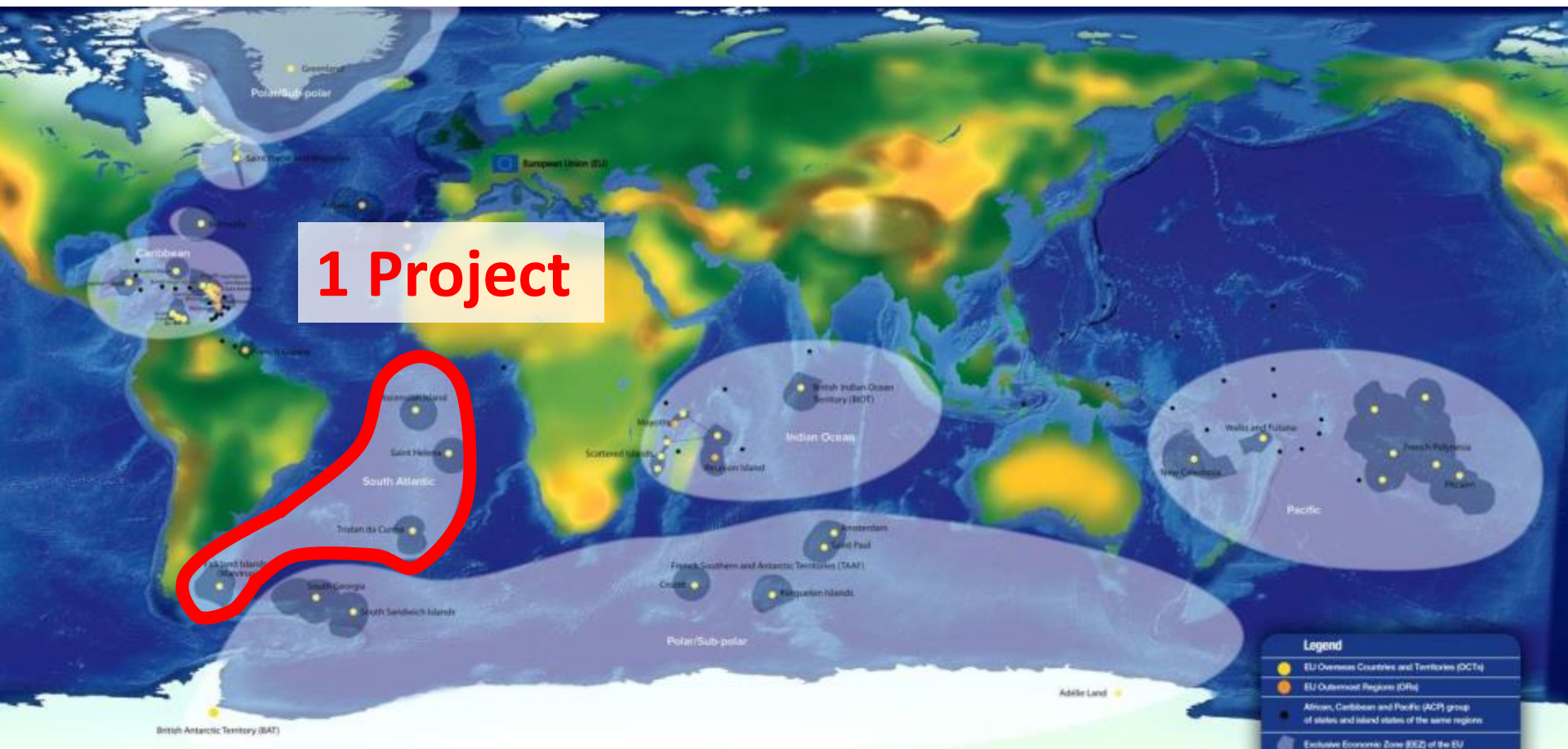


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## New Project in the South Atlantic Region (Small Grant)



# Project: Nurseries for Nature: Increasing Capability at St Helena's Endemic Nurseries



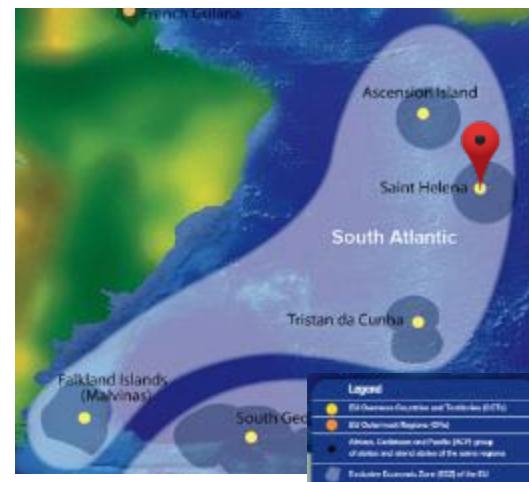
**Project lead:** St Helena National Trust



© Daniela Baigorri



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**Location:** Saint Helena

## Aim of the project:

To upgrade Saint Helena's conservation nurseries and increase the capacity on the island to produce larger numbers of healthy genetically diverse endemic threatened plants with a specific focus on six Critically Endangered species. The project will also establish a platform for communication and knowledge sharing amongst plant producers in the South Atlantic OTs and raise local awareness of the island's threatened endemic plants and their habitats.