

New Projects Funded by BEST 2.0

2016 Small Grant (SG) and Medium Grant (MG) Calls for Proposals







New Projects in the Pacific Region

(Small Grants)





B₄LIfe

Project: Tukemaragai: Ecological Restoration of the Small Islands of the Southeast of Gambier

Location: French Polynesia

Project lead: Commune des Gambier





Aim of the project:

To restore the habitats and birdlife of 3 islands of Gambier - Unami, Kamaka and Makaroa - and contribute to the conservation of endangered plants and soil restoration, as the islands are the victims of erosion due to overgrazing and invasive plants. The project will establish a nursery for native and endemic forest species that are particularly suited to the harsh environmental conditions of the target sites, and then plant and care for the seedlings. It will also install sound devices and create artificial burrows for breeding seabirds in order to encourage the return of some especially rare and endangered species.



B₄Llfe

Project: Conservation of the Natural Forest Remnants of Maraeti'a Plateau, Punaruu Valley, Tahiti

TAU A HITI NOA TI

Location: French Polynesia

Project lead: Te rau atiati a tau a hiti noatu

Aim of the project:

To control the rat population of the Punaruu Valley and reduce its impact on endemic and indigenous plant species caused by the consumption of fruits and seeds which affect recruitment, and attacks on young seedlings. It will combine chemical control, through the use of rat poison, and physical control through the deployment of traps to reduce the risk of resistance to the poison. The abundance of rats will be monitored so that the methods used can be adapted accordingly.





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New Caled

Wallis and

Maria Maria

Pacific



Location: Wallis and Futuna

Project lead: Direction des Services de l'Agriculture, de la Forêt et de la Pêche

© DSA Wallis et Futuna

Aim of the project:

To promote the conservation of forest biodiversity and the management and sustainable use of forest ecosystems in Wallis through four main actions: the completion of an inventory of forests and its uses in Wallis; the definition of conservation measures with the local population; the establishment of a pilot action for forest rehabilitation; and drafting a management plan and a forest policy.

ch Polynesia

B₄Llfe

Project: Conservation of the Critically Endangered Niau Kingfisher by the Local Community

Location: French Polynesia

Man

Project lead: Association Vaitamae

Partners: Societe D'Ornithologie de Polynesie - Manu

Aim of the project:

To increase the population, and thereby improve the conservation status, of the critically endangered Niau Kingfisher, which exists only on the Niau Atoll of the Tuamotu Archipelago. It will address the threats to the species and involve the local community. The project has four main actions:

- Reducing the risk of predation by cats
- Monitoring the species' demographic parameters
- Incorporating measures to protect the Niau Kingfisher in agricultural practices
- Evaluating the conservation actions and sharing the lessons learnt

Wallis and Futuna

Pacific

Project: Innovative and Sustainable Water Management: Optimizing Agricultural Irrigation



Location: New Caledonia

Project lead: AQUALONE

Partners: Chambre d'Agriculture de Nouvelle Calédonie

Aims of the project:

To demonstrate an innovative irrigation technology to increase agricultural production whilst saving water resources. The technology will be trialed at three pilot sites and a replicable business model to encourage its adoption will be developed. The lack of fresh water is a significant problem in New Caledonia, therefore the sustainable management of this resource is vital, particularly in the face of climate change.





B₄LIte

Project: Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment and Related Resources in the Context of Climate Change in Wallis and Futuna

Location: Wallis and Futuna

Project lead: Service Territorial de l'Environnement



Partners: Fédération des associations pour la protection de l'environnement Haofaki te Ulufenua

Aim of the project:

To contribute to the sustainable management of mangroves on the island of Wallis through three interlinked activities: a inventory to improve the knowledge of mangroves; the establishment of a pilot nursery and rehabilitation of mangroves; and awareness raising among the general public of the role of mangroves and the importance of preserving them.





B₄Llfe

Project: Strengthening Local Capacity for the Protection of the Terrestrial Natural Heritage of Rimatara

Wallis and Futuna

Pacific

ew Caledonia

Location: French Polynesia

S. RIMA'Up

Project lead: Association Rimaura

Aim of the project:

To strengthen the capacity of the local population to protect the terrestrial natural heritage of Rimatara which includes two endemic bird species, the Kuhl's lorikeet and the Rimatara reed warbler – both are classified as Critically Endangered. The protection of the island from invasion by the black rat will be strengthened through training provided to the team that inspects incoming goods, including those arriving by plane. A number of awareness raising activities will also be implemented.

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rench Polynesia



Aim of the project:

This educative and awareness raising project will involve the public and schools in the observation and protection of threatened species and marine ecosystems in French Polynesia through three emblematic groups: turtles, marine mammals and coral reefs. It will provide all interested Polynesian inhabitants with the skills and the tools to become actively involved in observing and collecting data on the marine environment and will strengthen knowledge of the natural heritage and human and climatic pressures. Various tools will be developed in the format of an educational kit.



B₄Llfe

Project: Strengthening conservation measures and tools for threatened conifers and palms of the rainforests and scrubland of New Caledonia.

Location: New Caledonia

Project lead: Noé



Aim of the project:

Half of the conifers and a quarter of palms present in New Caledonia are in danger of extinction according to the IUCN Red List with bush fires, mining and invasive species constituting the main threats. This project comprises three axes:

- the implementation of measures and tools for in situ and ex situ conservation of the project's target species;
- the creation and dissemination of recognition tools in the fight against the illegal trafficking of species targeted by the project;
 public communication and awareness raising.

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Project: Saving the endangered flora of the raised Anaa atoll and the definition of priority areas for conservation based on the flora and fauna

Wallis and Futuna

Pacific



Location: French Polynesia

Project lead: Association Pu Tahi Haga no Ganaa



Aim of the project:

This project aims to save endangered flora of the Anaa atoll through a combination of in situ and ex situ management.

- Conduct a census & threat assessment and collect plant material to establish a nursery.
- Preparing for the reintroduction of a species of dove known to be an important disseminator of many plants with fleshy fruits
- Define priority conservation areas and identify concrete conservation actions
- Public awareness raising



Project: Strengthening the Drinking Water Supply System of the Commune of Houailou by Maintaining the Ecosystem Services of the Upstream Water Catchment



Aim of the project:

To protect and manage the upstream catchment, which provides drinking water for the commune of Houailou, through reforestation of part of the catchment and implementing measures to protect the area such as fencing, barriers etc. This will ensure that it can continue to provide vital ecosystem services.

Project: FLORE NC: Preserving Together the Floristic Heritage of New Caledonia



Location: New Caledonia

Project lead: Endemia

Aim of the project:

To strengthen the protection of the most endangered terrestrial flora species in New Caledonia by: • Identifying the most threatened species of the flora of New Caledonia and promoting their conservation • Implementing a communication campaign on endangered species.

In support of provincial strategies, the project will facilitate the integration of data from the RLA's threatened flora inventory into the various flora protection systems.



Wallis and Futuna



CARIBBEAN



New Projects in the Caribbean Region

(Small Grants)





Aim of the project:

To contribute to the persistence and recovery of coral reef ecosystems by refining a technique for 'reseeding' degraded reefs across large spatial scales using sexually produced coral offspring ex situ that are settled on tiles. A prototype tile that has been developed by CARMABI will improved and optimized by evaluating alternative materials and designs and testing them in the field using various coral species and under different environmental scenarios (i.e. on reef sites of different health status). The aim is to make outplanting more efficient and financially sustainable enabling larger scale coral reef restoration.

Project: Enacting a New Regional Recovery Plan for the Lesser Antillean Iguana: an Endangered Ecological Keystone Species

Bermuda

deloup

Caribbean

British Virgin Islands

Saint Eus

Turks and Caicos Islands

Cayman Islands



Locations: Anguilla, St. Barthélemy, St. Eustatius

Project lead: Anguilla National Trust

Partners: Agence Territoriale de l'Environnement de St. Barthélemy; St. Eustatius National Parks (STENAPA)

Aim of the project:

To support the conservation of the Lesser Antillean iguana Iguana delicatissima by:

- 1. Creating a sub-regional framework for species recovery & conservation;
- 2. Adding to existing regional population data for the species;
- 3. Reintroducing I. delicatissima to Prickly Pear East, Anguilla;
- 4. Implementing standardised bio-security measures targeting the common green iguana;
- 5. Increasing sub-regional expertise in *I. delicatissima* conservation;
- 6. Building national and sub-regional awareness and support.



B₄Llfe

Project: Capacity Building and Increased Financing for Long Term Monitoring Programmes for Coral Reefs in the Turks and Caicos Islands

Location: Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)

Project lead: Wolfs Company



© Roddy McLeod

To contribute to the enhanced the management and conservation of coral reef ecosystems by:

- Building support from key stakeholders for financing and long-term monitoring of coral reefs;
- Increasing the capacity of the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources and civil society partners in the monitoring of coral reefs and using sound scientific findings to guide decision making and investment;
- Identifying long-term revenue streams for monitoring and assessing their feasibility;
- Identifying suitable indicators for environmental 'return on investment'.



© Don Stark



Location: Saba

Project lead: Public Entity of Saba



Partners: Saba Conservation Foundation (SCF); Saba Archaeological Center (SABARC)







Cayman Islands

Aim of the project:

To safeguard the biodiversity and archaeology of the northern and central part of the Island of Saba by preparing the draft legislation to establish the northern part of the island as a National Park and to appoint SCF as the managing organization.

Caribbean

Aruba

British Virgin Islands

Saint Eust

Turks and Caicos Islands

Draft legislation for species protection, a management plan, and draft management agreement for the entire National Park will be developed. The potential for the sustainable use of the park area will be assessed by upgrading the tourist value and accessibility of a small part of the area known as Mary's Point.

Bermuda

Illa Saint Martin

Sint Maarter



Project: Understanding the East Caicos KBA's Corals and Coast : A Key to Safeguarding TCI's Future



Aim of the project:

To address the current lack of management and monitoring policy and improve long-term conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services within East Caicos' coral reef ecosystems through the development of conservation zones and management and monitoring protocols. The selection of conservation zone classifications will be based on multi-criteria evaluation involving quantitative and qualitative assessment based on Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Caribbean methods. Conservation zone classifications and management and monitoring protocols will be agreed via workshops with the TCI management authority and local stakeholders.



Project lead: Echo Foundation

© Lauren Schmaltz





Aims of the project:

To protect and restore a threatened dry forest habitat site - Rooi Sangu - which exhibits high biodiversity, by establishing an extensive protected area. Fencing will be used to exclude herbivores and the area will be restored through the deliberate reintroduction of specific native tree and plant species that are absent or under-represented. A series of trails will be established to make the area accessible to the public and panels will raise awareness of the value of the area.



Bermuda

© Lauren Schmaltz

Project: Best of Bats!



Location: Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten

Project lead: Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance





Aims of the project:

To increase population sizes and contribute to the improved conservation status of bats on Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten by increasing the amount of roosting and nesting sites on the islands. An integral part of the project is the implementation of an education and outreach programme aimed at schools and the general population of the islands based on messages about the importance of bats for nature conservation and ecosystem integrity.



Project lead: Montserrat National Trust







Aim of the project:

To construct and operationalize a nursery to propagate plants of special ecological value. Three species that are effective for dry forest restoration will be propagated and replanted in an effort to restore patches of this ecosystem that are at high risk of being destroyed and are important for endemic animal species. A number of events will be organised to raise awareness among the island's population of the plant species, their uniqueness, and the threats they face.



B₄Llfe

Project: Management of Invasive Lionfish Hotspots: Conservation of Biodiversity on Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems in Bermuda

Location: Bermuda

BIOS

Project lead: Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences

Aim of the project:

Invasive lionfish have established populations throughout the Caribbean and Western Atlantic Ocean threatening native populations of economically and ecologically important fish species. This project aims to demonstrate that targeted removal of invasive lionfish will reduce the pressure on local fish populations, resulting in the preservation of localized reef fish diversity. In addition it will promote the creation of a sustainable lionfish fishery through provision of lionfish local to restaurants followed by surveys to determine market demand.



Project: Improving the Management of the Invasive Lionfish, Pterois volitans, by Determining Movement Patterns and Depth Preference

Location: Cayman Islands

Project lead: Central Caribbean Marine Institute

Aim of the project:

B₄Llfe

To improve the conservation of coral reefs in the Caribbean by enhancing the management strategy for the invasive red lionfish, *Pterois volitans*, and thereby limiting its deleterious ecological and economic impacts. It aims to increase the understanding of movement patterns of lionfish to inform its management and improve the effectiveness of site selection for targeted removal efforts. A principal output from this project will be the creation of a publicly accessible database and map of the lionfish population in Little Cayman.



Bermuda



Location: Sint Maarten

Project lead: EPIC St Maarten

Aim of the project:

To restore coastal and terrestrial biodiversity by planting native tree species at 3 ecologically degraded sites - Little Key (coastal mangrove wetland), Emilio Wilson Estate (montane dry forest) and Seaside Nature Park (coastal terrestrial scrub). The planted saplings will be cared for and monitored. A citizen-science initiative will teach student volunteers valuable skills and knowledge regarding botany, restoration ecology, and conservation issues. Long-term management of the sites will be formalized through written agreements with appropriate stakeholders.





Aim of the project:

A previous ciguatera analysis found that 50% of lionfish in Saint-Barthélemy's waters contained ciguatoxins, however the study was hardly representative and didn't take into account local ecological knowledge. This project will test the local ecological knowledge on ciguatera through a participatory, and hence pertinent, sampling scenario for chemical toxicity analysis to answer the question regarding lionfish edibility. The results will be used to elaborate a lionfish control strategy for Saint-Barthélemy.



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New Project in the South Atlantic Region

(Medium Grant)



Project: An Ecological Assessment of Ascension Island's Shallow-water Seamounts as Candidate Marine Protected Areas



Location: Ascension

Project lead: Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Department (AIDCFD)

Aim of the project:

To undertake the first detailed ecological studies of Ascension Island's three shallow-water seamounts to inform the need for their inclusion in a large-scale pelagic Marine Protected Area that is planned for the Territory.



Progress towards this goal is already well advanced in inshore areas; however, there remains a severe shortage of information relating to Ascension's offshore pelagic ecosystem. The current project will mark a significant step towards closing this knowledge gap and will substantially strengthen the evidence-base for offshore marine reserves in the Territory.

Island

Saint Helena

Ascensic

South Atlantic

Tristan da Cunha

alkland Islands (Malvinas)





New Projects in the Indian Ocean Region

(Medium Grant)







Project: COPRA: Conservation and Integrated Management of Phanerogam Seagrass Meadows in the Glorieuses Marine Nature Park and their Functional Role for Marine Turtle Populations

Location: Scattered Islands (TAAF), Glorieuses Islands

Project lead: Agence Française Pour la Biodiversité AGENCE FRANÇAISE POUR LA BIODIVERSITÉ MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Aims of the project:

Implemented on the archipelago of Glorieuses on the Geyser bank, areas covered by the Glorieuses Marine Nature Park (PNMG) created in 2012 this project aims to:

- 1. Increase knowledge of the seagrass habitats and their functional role for marine turtles;
- 2. Establish a regional seagrass monitoring network;
- 3. Strengthen the conservation and management of these ecosystems through specific measures to strengthen the PNMG management plan.



© Parc naturel marin des Glorieuses/Agence française pour la biodiversité

POLAR

SUB-BODAR



New Projects in the Sub-Polar Region

(Medium Grants)





B₄Llfe

Project: Sustainable Fishing in the Arctic: Can the Harvest of Greenland's Biggest Export be Compatible with the Conservation of Benthic Ecosystems?

Location: Greenland

Project lead: Zoological Society of London

Partner: Sustainable Fisheries Greenland

Aim of the project:

Sustainable management of fisheries is priority for Greenland, particularly in the face climate change.





Photographic surveys will be used to document benthic habitats in West Greenland with the observations and information collected, along with analytical interpretations, used to develop and evaluate management plans for the sustainable use of marine resources.

The project will also engage fishermen, children, industry, and public with the issue of conservation value of Greenland's benthic habitats and the need for their sustainable management.

Project: Where Are They Now? Right Whales in the South Georgia Marine Ecosystem



Location: South Georgia

Aim of the project:

To develop the first baseline survey of right whales in South Georgia waters spanning their period of peak occurrence in summer months. The survey will investigate their prey sources, habitat use in relation to the krill fishing within the sustainable-use South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Marine Protected Area, genetic diversity, population connectivity with calving areas and health status. The project will deliver a series of key conservation and management related outcomes.

British Antarctic Territory (BAT

Project lead: British Antarctic Survey

Adélie Land



Partner: University Court of the University of St Andrews



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