

23.03.2026

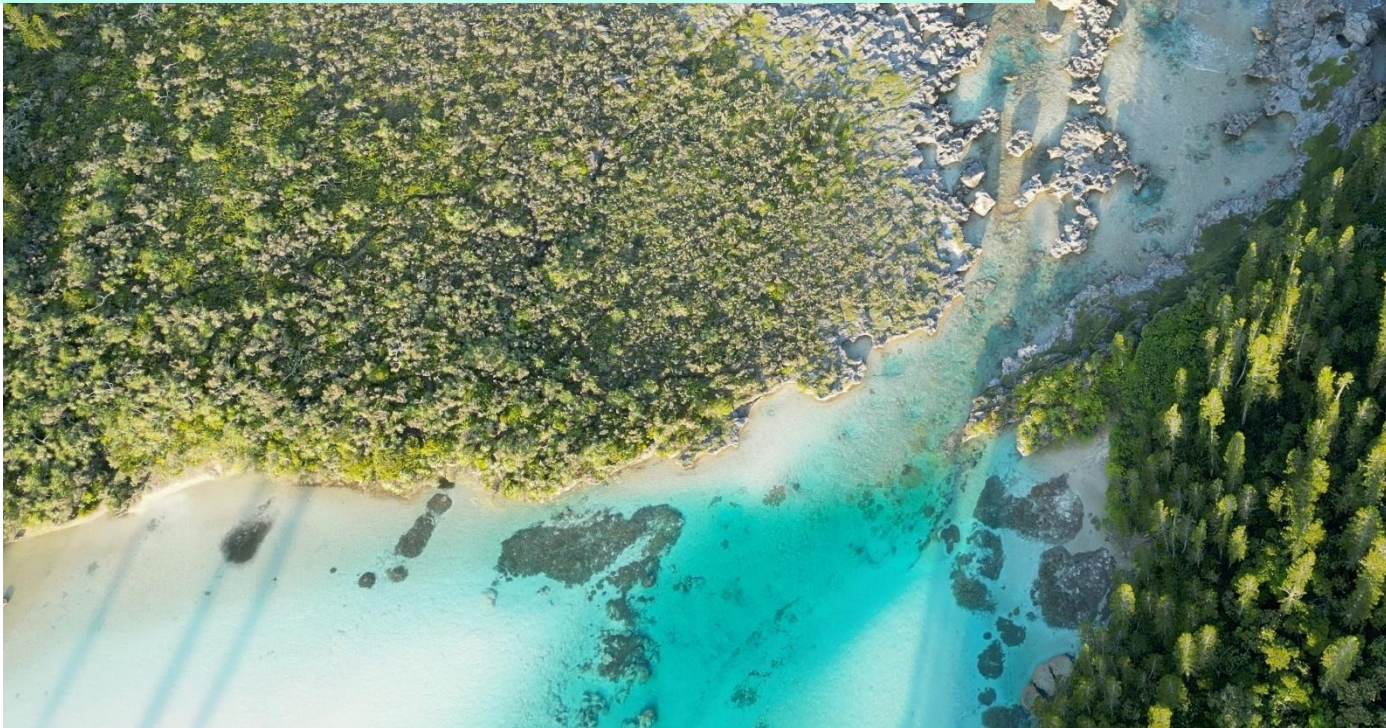
BEST Life 2030

From islands to EU policy

Translating island leadership into EU policy and strategic investment in Europe's Overseas Regions

23rd June 2026, 17h00-18h30 (tbc), European Parliament

Co-organised by the European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)



Coordinator



Regional hubs



Donors



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1. Context

EU outermost regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) host globally significant biodiversity and marine ecosystems and play a critical role in delivering the EU's biodiversity and climate objectives. As predominantly island and ocean-facing territories, they are on the frontline of climate change and biodiversity loss, while also providing tested, locally led solutions for conservation, restoration and resilience.

At the same time, the European Union is entering a decisive phase in shaping the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034), creating a key policy window to align environmental ambition with funding priorities.

In this context, investment in overseas regions should be understood not as a niche consideration, but as a cost-effective and strategic pathway for delivering EU biodiversity targets, climate adaptation objectives, and global commitments simultaneously. Proven delivery approaches already exist. The challenge now is to scale them.

2. Purpose

This session positions EU overseas regions as strategic partners for Europe's environmental objectives and demonstrates why scaling proven approaches requires a step-change in EU investment. It presents BESTLIFE2030 as a proven, cost-effective delivery mechanism for locally led biodiversity action and explores how such approaches can be translated into EU policy traction, funding pathways and strategic alliances.

3. Objectives

- Demonstrate the cost-effectiveness and strategic value of locally led biodiversity action in ORs and OCTs
- Position BESTLIFE2030 as a credible and scalable delivery mechanism
- Identify realistic entry points within EU policy and funding frameworks, particularly the next MFF and show the need for dedicated funding
- Trigger alignment between policymakers, funders and implementers around future investment priorities

4. Session structure

1. Political and strategic framing

Opening remarks will frame the strategic importance of EU outermost regions and OCTs in delivering Europe's biodiversity and climate objectives, and the need for sustained investment to match EU ambition.

2. Evidence from the ground

Selected BESTLIFE2030 projects will present high-level, practice-based solutions to address biodiversity and climate challenges in overseas regions. Drawing on early implementation experience, this segment will illustrate how locally led approaches are designed, structured and embedded within complex ecological- and socio-economic systems. The focus will be on demonstrating the relevance, feasibility and replicability of these approaches, and their potential to deliver sustained results over time.

3. From delivery to investment pathways

A forward-looking exchange will identify concrete opportunities for:

- stronger recognition of bottom-up delivery mechanisms such as BESTLIFE2030
- the development of dedicated or ring-fenced funding for overseas regions
- co-investment and scaling partnerships

4. Towards policy and investment commitments

A forward-looking exchange will identify opportunities for:

- A stronger recognition of bottom-up mechanisms such as BESTLIFE2030
- A dedicated funding window for overseas regions
- Co-investment and scaling partnerships

5. Expected outcomes

- Increased recognition of ORs and OCTs as strategic biodiversity partners for Europe
- Strengthened positioning of scalable delivery mechanisms such as BESTLIFE2030 in EU and donor discussions
- Clearer pathways towards coordinated and sustained investment in overseas biodiversity.

6. Target audience

- European Parliament (BUDG, ENVI, DEVE)
- European Commission (ENV, INTPA, REGIO, MARE)
- Member States (Permanent Representations / Council)

7. Strategic relevance for the EU Green Week

By directly linking on-the-ground results with EU decision-making and financing, the session contributes to EU Green Week priorities on implementation, investment and impact. It supports ongoing reflections on the next Multiannual Financial Framework and reinforces the case for sustained, strategic investment in Europe's overseas regions.

8. Draft agenda

This event is co-organised by the European Bureau for Conservation and Development, which hosts the Secretariat of the MEP Group on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development.

Event moderator: Tommaso Demozzi, Biodiversity Policy Officer, IUCN EU Representative Office

xx:00 - xx:15: Welcome participants

xx:15 - xx:30: Opening remarks by:

- MEP Paulo do Nascimento Cabral (tbc)
- IUCN representative (tbc)
- Foundational intervention (tbc)

xx:30 - xx:50: Interventions by BESTLIFE2030 grantees (speaker names tbc)

xx:50 - yy:35: Panel discussion with the participation of:

- Representative from the European Commission (tbc)
- Representative from the Council of the EU (tbc)
- Representative from the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) (tbc)
- Representative from a private donor / philanthropic foundation (tbc)
- Representative from a practitioner on the ground (tbc)

yy:35 - yy:50: Q&A session with the audience, including reactions by more Members of the European Parliament (tbc)

yy:50 - zz:00: Closing remarks by:

- MEP Paulo do Nascimento Cabral (tbc)
- IUCN representative (tbc)



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