

CONFERENCE  
**Biodiversity in European  
Development Cooperation**



**Report from Workshop 8  
Overseas Countries and Territories  
(OCTs)**

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Chair

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# Objective



- **Recognition of the importance of biodiversity in the OCTs**
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# Conclusions



The workshop stressed :

- the special responsibility of the EU for its Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) and also its Outermost Regions (ORs),
  - the global importance of their biodiversity, and also its crucial importance for the peoples of the OCTs and their cultures, societies, economies and ways of life
  - the dramatic lack of proper EU funding and strategy
  - the huge potential added value for EU of the 20 OCTs and 7 ORs for research and action on climate change and biodiversity
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# Recommendations



**Participants encourage the European Commission and Member States to :**

- Develop a coherent framework for environment in OCTs, aiming among others at a sustainable management of important biodiversity areas, and also allowing joint efforts with Outermost Regions (ORs) as in they are the entities with the most similar stakes within the European Union ;
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# Recommendations



**Participants encourage the European Commission and Member States to :**

- Ensure that adequate funding is given to environment and biodiversity in the OCTs, including improved access to European programmes for local bodies and NGOs in coordination with the local authorities, and an outsourced small grants facility ;
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# Recommendations



**Participants encourage the European Commission and Member States to :**

- Develop joint research programmes focusing on the biodiversity of OCTs and ORs, and also strengthening joint efforts with regional partner countries ;
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# Recommendations



**Participants encourage the European Commission and Member States to :**

- Strengthen both the OCTs and the EU positions in the international debate on climate change, by making use of the worldwide and diverse network of OCTs and ORs to evaluate the interactions between ecosystems, climate change and local communities.
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