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TITLE: **MOVE: Facilitating MAES to support regional policy in OVerseas Europe: mobilizing stakeholders and pooling resources**

FUNDING: DG ENV Call for Proposals ENV/2017/CFP/MAES OR OCT

TOTAL BUDGET: 1,060,781 €

EU CONTRIBUTION: 999,989 €

START DATE: April 1, 2018.

DURATION: 36 month

COORDINATION: Fundo Regional para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FRCT), Azores, Portugal.

CONSORTIUM: 14 partners from 7 countries and 6 overseas areas.

The Challenge

Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy urges Member States to map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services (MAES) in their national territory.

However, Europe's Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) often seem to be overlooked in MAES efforts. The nine ORs are territories located at distance from continental Europe but make up substantial parts of EU Member State's territories. The 25 OCTs are characterized by special bonds with EU Member States.

These regions represent specific cases: the EU Overseas mainly consist out of islands, spread through all corners of the globe. These territories contain unique flora and fauna: they host more than 70% of all EU biodiversity and include 20% of the world's coral reefs and lagoons. They encompass most diverse ecosystems on often very small scale, from coral reefs and mangrove, or tropical rainforests, mountain ecosystems to polar- and subpolar seas, which provide multiple relevant ecosystem services from local to global scale.

However, general knowledge on island Ecosystem Services (ES) and especially how to map and assess them seems scarce.

Objectives

The MOVE pilot project intends to involve policy makers, researchers and the civil society in the development of methodologies for mapping and assessing the state of ecosystems and their services in ORs and OCTs. A coordinated and synergistic approach is advocated to turn the geographical, political and knowledge base fragmentation of these entities into assets, pooling resources and building robust participatory tools.

The project will start by assessing the state of the art of the MAES exercise within the participating overseas regions, and by inventorying and motivating the human and material capacities present in each of them. It will then choose as case studies 4 specific regions and a particular contribution on which to focus the work of a dedicated team of local experts, policy makers and civil society members, pooled from across the OR and OCTs. In addition to producing a tangible contribution for the MAES exercise, this project aims to demonstrate the possibility and the advantage of a bottom-up approach, involving and capacitating local actors.

If successful, this project will allow testing and implementing the MAES methodology in different world regions, providing methodologies and good practice guidelines, thus contributing to a worldwide EU leadership in this field.

Activities

1. Project coordination and management
2. Engaging stakeholders to assess the state of the art and prioritize project contributions. Assess the state of the art of MAES in the participating ORs and OCTs. Mobilize stakeholders in the definition of the case studies and specific contributions to be made by the project.
3. Knowledge sharing and information repository. Information collected in the project will be analyzed, integrated, synthesized and structured in order to fulfill the demands of MAES implementation in all EU member states. All MAES-relevant information on ORs and OCTs ecosystems and their services will be made available for EU level repositories.
4. Facilitating MAES in Europe's Overseas. Developing and testing the feasibility of MAES in Europe's Overseas through collaborative and multidisciplinary approaches.
5. Outlining a MAES Strategic Plan for the EU Overseas. To review the performance of the tools and procedures tested, and the major constraints for their implementation. To integrate the lessons learned during the project in a proposed Strategic Plan for MAES in ORs and OCTs.
6. Communication, Dissemination and Outreach. To ensure effective communication and dissemination actions, raising public awareness about Ecosystem Services as well as informing stakeholders, MAES specialists worldwide and general society about the outcomes of the project.

Consortium

The MOVE project is promoted by an heterogeneous consortium of 14 elements, based in 8 European Overseas entities (five ORs and three OCTs, covering 6 of the 7 biogeographical regions with European presence) and on 4 countries of the European mainland. The project will thus be able to work directly on a representative fraction of the European Overseas entities, mobilizing stakeholders on a personal basis, engaging them directly in face to face interviews and focal workshops. The continental partners were selected for their expertise in MAES, in order to provide a seamless integration with initiatives at the mainland level, allowing bilateral knowledge exchanges and capacity building.

Partners

Partner	Country
Fundo Regional para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FRCT)	Portugal (Azores)
Universidad de La Laguna (ULL)	Spain (Canary Islands)
Wolfs Company - Coöperatie Wolfs Company U.A	Netherlands (Bonaire)
Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)	France (New Caledonia)
Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover (LUH)	Germany
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM)	Spain
South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI)	United Kingdom (Falkland Islands)
Università degli Studi di Trento (UNITN)	Italy
Universite de la Réunion (UoR)	France (Reunion)
Nova Blue Environment (NEB)	France (Martinique)
Asociación Biodiversidad Atlántica y Sostenibilidad (ABAS)	Spain (Canary Islands)
University of Portsmouth (UoP)	United Kingdom
Centre de Coopération Internationale Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD)	France (French Guyana)
Institute for Environmental Studies, Faculty of Science, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU)	Netherlands

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