Conclusions of the roundtable «Research»:

“Which strategies in research for sustainable development in European Overseas”:
Knowledge, gaps and needs of research to answer these issues
A major potential for cooperation
• 21 proposals
• strengthened by a portfolio of recommended actions and measures resulting from the 11 roundtables and workshops
Key points (part 1)

- Full recognition of the links between people, biodiversity and climate change.
- Specific climate scenarios and adaptation plans for each OR and OCT, with a regional perspective.
- Strengthened regional cooperation on biodiversity, climate change adaptation and sustainable energy.
- More attention to ORs and OCTs in international negotiations on climate and biodiversity.
- Environmental alliance between ORs, OCTs, Small Island Developing States and the EU, including through global initiatives (CBD, GLISFA).
- New approaches and resources to ensure civil society can play its vital role.
- Greater consideration for ORs and OCTs in EU strategies and Research Framework Programmes.
- Use of impact assessments and economic valuation of biodiversity at the heart of decision making.
**Key points (part 2)**

- **Reinforcement of ecosystem resilience** through *networks of protected areas* and *ecosystem approach*.

- **Protection of species and habitats** through a new voluntary scheme open to all ORs and OCTs.

- **More earmarked funds for biodiversity**, including a new dedicated fund, and trust funds.

- **Invasive Alien Species** strategies in all ORs and OCTs, and full integration in the future EU Strategy.

- A strategic vision for the ORs’ and OCTs’ *marine and coastal areas* in the future EU Maritime Policy.

- **Energy autonomy strategies** targeting low CO2 emissions and no direct impact on biodiversity.

- A new *coordination mechanism* networking actors working on the ORs and OCTs, and promoting the implementation of the Message from Reunion Island.

Download the full Message from Reunion Island with detailed recommendations: [www.reunion2008.eu](http://www.reunion2008.eu)
PROGRAMME of the Research round-table:

"Which strategies in research for sustainable development in European Overseas":
Knowledge, gaps and needs of research to answer these issues

Session chair: Philippe Berne, Vice-Président du Conseil régional de la Réunion
Facilitator: Vincent Tardieu, scientific journalist
Rapporteur: Dimitri Harmegnies, Net-Biome Executive Director

• Overseas, biodiversity and climate change: stakes and prospects for research
  António Domingos Abreu, Biologist, Madeira, Chairman of the Portuguese Chamber of Biologists

• Which strategies in research for sustainable development in European Overseas? Example of networking of research programmes and actors through Net-Biome
  Josiane Trissin-Mangata, Net-Biome Co-ordinator

• Research cases:
  – Impacts of Global Change on Montane Island Ecosystems: developing Listening Posts in the European Overseas Territories & Countries
    Jean Yves Meyer, French Polynesia, Environment Ministry, Philippe Feldmann, Dominique Strasberg, Reunion University
  – Temperature-dependant sex determination: climate change victims and sentinels?
    Claudia Delgado, University of Madeira, Center for Macoronesian studies
  – Interactions between human activities and biodiversity in the heart of overseas sustainable development.
    Questions of research for managed ecosystems (agriculture)
    Philippe Feldmann, Cirad
Recommendations from the research Roundtable 1/2

To implement a strategy allowing Overseas to answer the stakes of the impact of the climate change and the erosion of the biodiversity. Thanks to the biodiversity and its conservation, the societies of the overseas will be able to adapt to the global change.

• Needs for organization, financings and specific tools:
  – long-term monitoring, biological and socio-economic indicators
  – Networking biodiversity research
  – Improving co-operations and exchanges with whole stakeholders
  – Allowing effective access of the Overseas to the European funds
Recommendations from the research Roundtable 2/2

• Specific needs for research:
  – Thorough analysis of the impacts of the global change for each community
  – Urgency to undertake research and conservation actions on/for the most sensitive ecosystems
  – Interdisciplinary research on the role of the biodiversity as indicator and adaptation factor, and on the interactions between societies, natural and exploited ecosystems
  – To develop a ambitious federative research program throughout Overseas declining specificities of the territories and contributing to the world answers to the global change
Interactions between human activities and biodiversity in the heart of Overseas sustainable development: Stakes for research in managed ecosystems (agriculture, forests,...)
Needs for research:

- **Aim**: better knowledge of local real situation and helping identifying and implementing the necessary decisions and measures in the face of global changes:
  - **Long term monitoring**
    - Overseas are already the largest existing potential network in the world (in all oceans). Why not using them?
  - **Understanding the drivers**
    - The diversity of the situations is not a weakness but a strength to identify the drivers of evolution, here for specific agricultures
    - Existing models to be adapted such as Dynamic Global Vegetation Models but allow only to evaluate a potential of change when what is requested is to serve as quantitative predictions of changes
  - **Proposing methods and measures and how to implement them**
    - Example: How to use the capacity of adaptation of local biological resources for agriculture? (Yam, Pineapple, Vanilla,...)
    - How to implement the results in the public policies?

*This will be helpful for whole Europe research, innovation and development and also globally*

*Managed and exploited ecosystems being in the heart of economic development, they are fully part of the strategy*
• L’Outre-mer représente une diversité unique et un réseau potentiel exceptionnel sur tout le globe qui est un atout encore insuffisamment valorisé pour la recherche, l’innovation et le développement de l’Europe aux avant-postes de l’adaptation aux changements climatiques.

• Overseas represent a unique diversity and an exceptional potential network worldwide which is an asset still insufficiently valued for research, innovation and development of Europe in the outpost of adaptation to climate changes.
Thank you for your attention

For more information:

- MEA (Millenium Ecosystems Assessment reports)
- CGIAR Challenge programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
Climate Change and Biodiversity in the European Union Overseas Entities

Pre-conference version

7-11 July 2008 – Reunion Island
The European Union and its Overseas Entities. Strategies to counter Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss