



NETBIOME-CSA

STRENGTHENING EUROPEAN RESEARCH COOPERATION FOR SMART AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL BIODIVERSITY IN OUTERMOST REGIONS AND OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Conference Report

Boosting sustainable development from high biodiversity: Prospects for green and blue growth in ORs and OCTs. 27th of May 2014, Gran Canaria.

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Summary

This report summarizes the main ideas exposed during the International Conference “*Boosting sustainable development from high biodiversity: Prospects for green and blue growth in ORs and OCTs*”. It includes several presentations made by some of the consortium partners, international experts and members of the Advisory Board, as well as the main conclusions of the different sessions and debates carried out on the 27th of May 2014 at PLOCAN facilities, in Gran Canaria (Canary Islands, Spain).

Publishable Summary

The International Conference “*Boosting sustainable development from high biodiversity: Prospects for green and blue growth in ORs and OCTs*” was held at PLOCAN facilities, Gran Canaria island, on the 27th of May 2014. The event gathered more than 40 participants from different parts of the world, including representatives and experts from all levels of the quadruple helix (knowledge institutions, enterprises, government and civil society). Participants presented and discussed innovative ideas on topics related to biodiversity conservation and valorisation in Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), as well as to topics related to green and blue development derived from the high biodiversity asset of the European Overseas.

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Abbreviations

AB: Advisory Board
ADECAL: Economic Development Agency of New Caledonia
CAP: Common Agricultural Policy
EC: European Commission
EU: European Union
FRC: Portuguese Regional Fund for Science
IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature
OCT: Overseas Countries and Territories
OCTA: Overseas Countries and Territories Association
OR: Outermost Region
PLOCAN: Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands
RG: Regional Council of Guadeloupe
RR: Regional Council of Reunion
SP: Stakeholders Panel
TEV: Total Economic Value

Acknowledgements

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Particular thanks are given to the members of the NetBiome-CSA Coordination Group (Portuguese Regional Fund for Science, Regional Council of Guadeloupe, Economic Development Agency of New Caledonia, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Council of Reunion and EurOcean), as well as to the speakers and chairs of the different sessions. In order of appearance: **Octavio Llinás**, Director of the Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands; **José Regidor**, Rector of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria; **Juan Ruiz Alzola**, Director of the Canary Islands Agency for Research, Innovation and Society of Information; **José Azevedo**, Portuguese Regional Fund for Science; **Vanessa Weck**, Regional Council of Guadeloupe; **Niels Raes**, Naturalis Biodiversity Center; **Holger Gerdes**, Ecologic Institute; **Marimar Villagarcía**, Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands; **Carole Martinez**, International Union for Conservation of Nature; **Janice Panton**, Overseas Countries and Territories Association; **Jimena Arango**, Overseas Countries and Territories Association; **Antonio Abreu**, Biologist; **Javier Pérez Marrero**, Interra SL; **Colin Hindmarch**, Ecological Consultant; **Soraya Sierra**, Naturalis Biodiversity Center; **Pablo Chavance**, Economic Development Agency of New Caledonia.

Part I – Introduction

1. Background

The EU overseas entities are well-known areas of high terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity. They support unique ecosystems that are home to an estimated one-third of the globally threatened species, including many endemic species. While ecotourism and fisheries activities illustrate an example of the critical role of biodiversity in supporting sustainable development in these regions, the EU appreciates the importance of upholding access to maintained fisheries grounds, marine and terrestrial genetic resources, mineral exploration and a foothold in the high seas in three oceans. However, diverse direct human pressures, natural hazards and/or climate change contribute to the progressing decline of this extraordinarily rich biodiversity.

NetBiome-CSA originates from a previous biodiversity research partnership based on Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) – the Net-Biome ERA-NET –, which was focused on financing high quality research. The project takes on the challenge of mobilizing further stakeholders at all the levels of the quadruple helix (knowledge institutions, enterprises, government and civil society) in order to identify, and then to address, perceived priority challenges. The aim is to conciliate conservation and sustainable management of tropical biodiversity with the sustainable development of European regions and territories, based on the benefits from high biodiversity. In doing so, and always maintaining a bottom-up approach, NetBiome-CSA will facilitate improved knowledge transfer and uptake, provide appropriate tools and models to manage information and data for policy makers and raise awareness of natural resources – including raw materials – in EU overseas in the long term.

The International Conference *“Boosting sustainable development from high biodiversity: Prospects for green and blue growth in ORs and OCTs”*, was organised by the Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands (PLOCAN) with the help of the NetBiome-CSA Coordination Group, composed by the project coordinator, the management support team and the work packages leaders. It was held at PLOCAN facilities in Taliarte (Gran Canaria) on Tuesday 27th of May 2014; the conference programme is shown in Annex I and includes a total of four sessions. The event became a great accomplishment for the project, providing important results that will be essential for the development of the next phases.

2. Conference objectives and outcomes

This International Conference was the first one programmed within the NetBiome-CSA project and represented an excellent scenario for the participation of relevant international stakeholders, who presented and discussed innovative ideas on topics related to biodiversity conservation and valorisation in ORs and OCTs, as well as to topics related to green and blue development derived from the high biodiversity asset of the European Overseas. In this sense, the project has a two-fold purpose: i) conserve the high biodiversity for future generations, and ii) ensure biodiversity becomes an added-value asset for sustainable development.

The specific objectives of the conference were to:

- Present the NetBiome-CSA project to participants and the progress to date (WP1, WP2 and WP3);
- Present case studies on the socio-economic valuation of biodiversity in ORs and OCTs (Task 3.2);
- Present and discuss the most pressing challenges to biodiversity conservation and management in ORs and OCTs, identified through an iterative exercise with a wide stakeholder base (Task 3.1);
- Create multidisciplinary workgroups focused on addressing those challenges (within Task 3.3 based on Task 3.1 and for Task 4.1);
- Obtain guidance from international experts on innovative ideas for boosting sustainable development derived from high biodiversity (for WP4 and WP5 tasks).

The main outputs of the conference included:

- Presentation of the first NetBiome-CSA technical report, an exhaustive revision of case studies on the socio-economic valuation of biodiversity in ORs and OCTs;
- Selection of the 4 most pressing challenges to biodiversity conservation and management in support of sustainable development, to be addressed in detail within the next stages of the project:
 - i) Integration and conservation of biodiversity values through spatial planning;
 - ii) Sustainable agriculture and forestry practices;
 - iii) Ecosystems, habitats and species: understanding, conservation, management and governance;
 - iv) Knowledge base decision making in marine and coastal biodiversity issues;

- Setting up 4 multidisciplinary working groups, comprising stakeholders from all the regions;
- Guidance from International Experts on innovative ideas for boosting sustainable development derived from high biodiversity.

3. Conference follow-up

Based on one of the International Conference outputs, the NetBiome-CSA consortium organised its first Thematic Workshop “Addressing the challenges to biodiversity management in support of sustainable development in ORs and OCTs” on the 28th of May, followed by the project first exchange with the Advisory Board. Finally, the 2nd General Assembly took place the 29th and 30th of May in order to take advantage of the whole consortium presence (piggy-backing principle).

The next steps of the NetBiome-CSA project will focus at addressing in detail the challenges identified, producing research recommendations and policy briefs. Research partnership opportunities for developing a biodiversity management toolbox will be explored and efforts dedicated to enhancing the sustainability of the NetBiome partnership will be pursued.

This international meeting will somehow continue in the next International Conference on Biodiversity and Climate Change “*From strategies to action: Turning the biodiversity and climate change challenges in the EU Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) into opportunities*”, to be held in Guadeloupe between the 21st and the 25th of October 2014. The NetBiome-CSA partnership has been invited to actively participate in this event, holding some of the project foreseen gatherings in coincidence with it.

4. Conference format

The event began with an official institutional opening by some local authorities, like the Director of the Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands (PLOCAN), the Rector of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (ULPGC) and the Director of the Canary Islands Agency for Research, Innovations and Society of Information (ACIISI). Media and press were present at this stage in the event, and these 3 speakers together with the project coordinator were interviewed by the media after their intervention.

The next session was devoted to the presentation of the NetBiome-CSA project and some of its first results to date, involving four speakers from the project consortium. Session 3 involved five keynote external speakers, including representatives from international associations, NGOs, enterprises and independent

experts, who provided innovative ideas, tools and examples on sustainable development from high biodiversity in ORs and OCTs. The final session of the conference took place in the afternoon and aimed at identifying the four most pressing common challenges to be addressed by the project in the next stages; it consisted of a presentation made by the Economic Development Agency of New Caledonia (ADECAL), which was followed by a plenary debate with the public.

All sessions proceedings are reported in detail in Part II of this document.

5. Conference participants

More than 40 participants attended the conference from different parts of the world, i.e from 9 ORs and OCTs (Azores, Guadeloupe, Madeira, Martinique, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Reunion, the Caribbean Netherlands, and the Canary Islands), from 6 mainland EU countries (France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands and United Kingdom) and from 2 non EU countries (Cape Verde and Barbados), including representatives and experts from all levels of the quadruple helix.

Among the participants, the list included all the NetBiome-CSA consortium partners, the five members of the Advisory Board and a representation of the project Stakeholders Panel involved in the challenges discussions. Local stakeholders to join the conference (Bank of Algae, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, University of La Laguna, INTERRA S.L., etc.), and international experts to expand the network (Barbados, United Kingdom) were also invited. Moreover, two delegates of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA) participated actively in the conference and the next day workshops.

A list of participants is provided in Annex II.

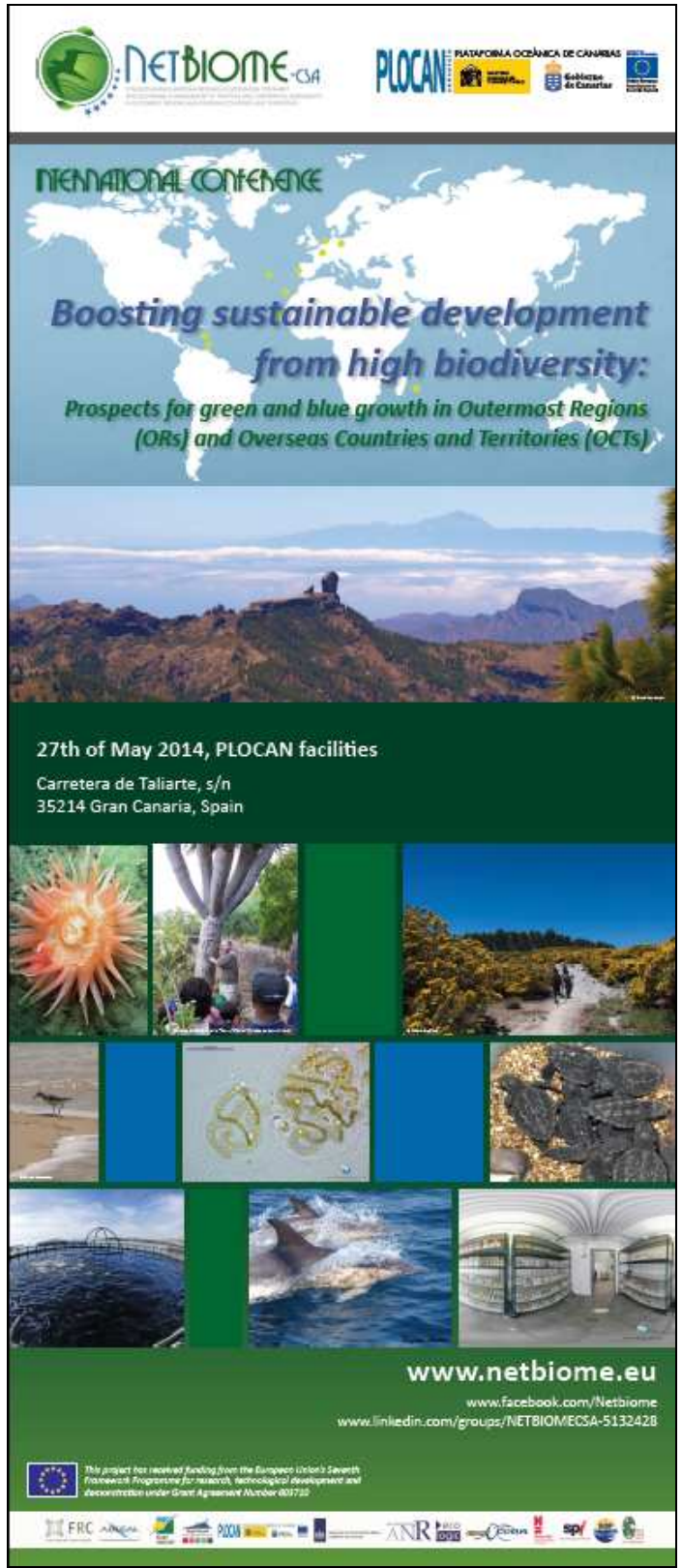


Photo 1 – Conference roll-up.

Part II – Conference proceedings

Session 1. Welcome and institutional opening

On Tuesday 27th of May 2014 in the morning, the conference started with an institutional opening by the following representatives from institutions of the Canary Islands, specifically:

- **Octavio Llinás González**, Director of PLOCAN, who pointed out the success of the NetBiome partnership from its beginning (including the 2010 joint call) and the importance of biodiversity in ORs and OCTs; they are not only a major tourist attraction and a source of revenues, there is a high potential for the sustainable economic development of these areas based on research and innovation, biotechnology or food security, among other issues.
- **José Regidor García**, Rector of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, who stressed the crucial role of the oceans and their resources for the future of the European overseas, and the need for marine research as a priority for blue development. He also recalled the necessity of overseas entities working together to join efforts in research and development initiatives.
- **Juan Ruiz Alzola**, Director of the Canary Islands Agency for Research, Innovation and Society of Information, who highlighted the importance of maintaining the NetBiome partnership; he also emphasized the exceptional asset and opportunity that biodiversity represents for the ORs and OCTs, Europe and the world, based on pillars like research, innovation and environmental awareness.



Photo 2 – Institutional opening. Left to right: José Regidor (Rector of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria), Juan Ruiz Alzola (Director of the Canary Islands Agency for Research, Innovation and Society of Information) and Octavio Llinás (Director of PLOCAN).

Session 2. The NetBiome-CSA project: biodiversity in ORs and OCTs

The second session of the conference, chaired by José Azevedo as coordinator (Portuguese Regional Fund for Science – FRC), introduced the NetBiome-CSA project to the general public; he also presented the progress reached to date and some of the first results, within the context of biodiversity characterization and valuation in ORs and OCTs. Four representatives of the consortium partnership were the speakers:

- **José Azevedo (FRC, coordinator and WP1 leader)**, who provided an overview of the project – from the origins to its status up to May 2014, with the presentation “*The NetBiome-CSA partnership: where did we come from and where we are we going?*”. He explained first the previous partnership (NetBiome ERA-NET project 2007 - 2012) that has led to the current initiative; then he continued with a general approach to biodiversity conservation issues in ORs and OCTs –the core objective of the NetBiome-CSA project, as well as to human-related causes of biodiversity loss throughout history. Finally, he concluded presenting the current stage of the NetBiome-CSA project and its future activities according to the programmed work packages. The main ideas expressed can be summarized in the following points:
 - The ERA-NET was a fantastic learning experience in networking for research activities in the European overseas.
 - ORs and OCTs concentrate most of the European biodiversity, but attention is unbalanced regarding prioritized areas for conservation.
 - Safe limits for some of the major “planetary boundaries” have been exceeded, this being particularly serious in terms of biodiversity loss.
 - Biodiversity is not only crucial for ecosystem functioning and services, but also for society, contributing to the provision of a safe and just space for humanity.
 - The NetBlome-CSA project is at this moment focused on the selection of the 4 common most pressing challenges to biodiversity management and conservation in support of sustainable development in ORs and OCTs, in order to engage stakeholders and produce policy briefs and research recommendations.
 - Previous work packages has been dedicated to mobilise the network and set up a Stakeholder Panel and an Advisory Board; next stages comprise the development of joint activities to address the common priority challenges, sustainable research partnerships and a biodiversity management toolbox, while continuing with project management and dissemination activities as well as future sustainability of the network.



Photo 3 – José Azevedo (Portuguese Regional Fund for Science – FRC).

- **Vanessa Weck (Regional Council of Guadeloupe – RG, WP2 leader)**, who presented “A view on the characteristics of stakeholders involved in tropical and subtropical biodiversity in ORs and OCTs”. She explained the tasks carried out to mobilise knowledge and expand the network (task 2.1 Identification of key actors to better address challenges; task 2.2 Constitution of the Advisory Board and the Stakeholder Panel) and provided some statistical results regarding the stakeholders involved. In detail she explained:
 - An online questionnaire, available in English, French and Spanish, was designed to obtain information in relation to the fields of activity, regional challenges, good practices/policies, projects on socio-economic valuation of biodiversity , as well as other relevant stakeholders to be contacted.
 - A total of 130 entries were registered through this questionnaire (53 in English, 53 in French and 24 in Spanish).
 - The distribution of participants in the consultation was done by:
 - Geographic region: 46.2% Atlantic; 25.4% Caribbean; 17.7% Pacific; 6.2% Continental Europe; 3.1% South America; 0.8% Indian and 0.8% left blank.
 - Field of expertise: 33.8% terrestrial; 31.5% general; 24.6% marine and 3.8% freshwater.
 - Type of organisation: 31% research; 39% Government/public administration; 16% NGO; 12% private and 2% other.



Photo 4 – Vanessa Weck (Regional Council of Guadeloupe – RG).

- **Niels Raes (Naturalis Biodiversity Center, task 4.3 leader)**, who delivered the presentation *“Terrestrial and marine bioclimatic characterization of the ORs and OCTs”*. He did an introduction on the biogeographic distribution of the European overseas and the links between bioclimatic factors and the global distribution of biodiversity. In the terrestrial realm, factors like temperature and precipitation were mainly used, whereas sea-surface and surface air temperature, bathymetric depth and salinity were analysed in the marine realm. Then he presented the results of his study, which was designed within the NetBiome-CSA framework to identify partnerships based on terrestrial and marine bioclimatic similarities of the European ORs and OCTs (32 terrestrial regions –Greenland, British Antarctic Territory and French Guiana excluded– and 32 marine Exclusive Economic Zones regions). He emphasized the following main conclusions:
 - The Principal Component Analysis allowed identifying island groups with similar multivariate bioclimatic conditions.
 - In the terrestrial realm, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific share bioclimatic similar conditions; the Macaronesia and the Polar/Sub-polar regions are unique, and the South Atlantic is intermediate.
 - Within the marine realm, the Amazon, the Caribbean, the Macaronesia and the Polar/Sub-polar regions have (some) unique bioclimatic conditions; the Indian Ocean and the Pacific share similar bioclimatic condition, and the South Atlantic shares bioclimatic conditions with most regions.

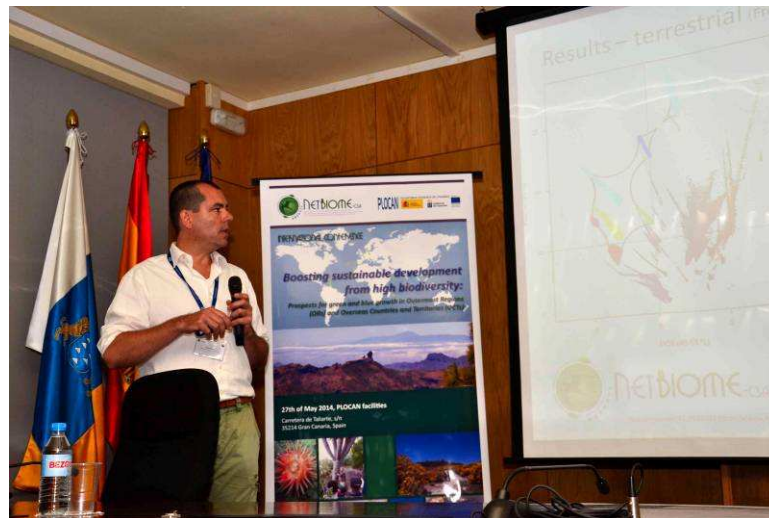


Photo 5 – Niels Raes (Naturalis Biodiversity Center).

- **Holger Gerdes (Ecologic Institute, task 3.2 leader)**, who presented a summary of the results contained in the deliverable 3.1 of the NetBiome-CSA project, a report entitled *“Evidence on the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services in ORs and OCTs”*. He started mentioning global initiatives like the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), then introducing the concepts of economic valuation and the Total Economic Value (TEV) of an ecosystem. Later on, he explained the different valuation approaches (market valuation, revealed preference and stated preference) and methods commonly used. He also provided an overview about the main statistics of the report, obtained through an exhaustive literature review focused on ORs and OCTs, and consultation of global databases:

- 39 valuation studies were identified (and values standardized), containing a total of 109 individual ecosystem service valuations.
- Most valuation studies are referred to coral reefs (46%), tropical forests (24%) and mangroves (11%).
- The most frequently valued services are recreation, food provisioning, extreme events prevention, genetic resources, raw materials and TEV.
- Literature shows wide ranges of values for specific ecosystem services (e.g. tourism in marine environments from <1 to >50,000 Eur2014/ha/year).

He finally presented a set of valuation studies carried out in Bonaire by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs as an identified best-practice example, and stated that:

- i) Economic valuations can potentially play a critical role in political decision-making;

- ii) Uptake of results primarily depends on the involvement of stakeholders in the process; and
- iii) “Windows of opportunity” are relevant and coordination of research efforts could create synergies.



Photo 6 – Holger Gerdes (Ecologic Institute).

Session 3. Sustainable development from high biodiversity in ORs and OCTs

After the coffee break, session 3 provided a space for international experts to present innovative ideas on green and blue growth related to the high biodiversity asset of the European overseas. Chaired by Marimar Villagarcía (PLOCAN, WP3 leader), this session involved 5 keynote speakers:

- **Carole Martinez (International Union for Conservation of Nature – IUCN)**, who gave an overview of the EU BEST initiative entitled “*The European Initiative BEST, a new European scheme dedicated to ORs and OCTs*”. This presentation was focussed on both a retrospective insight of the initiative from its origins, and the structure and functioning of the BEST consortium. She started making reference to the “Message from Reunion Island (2008)” and the European Parliament Preparatory Action (2010), which led to the BEST implementation. She emphasized then the main features and results of the BEST initiative:
 - The goal being the promotion of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems in ORs and OCTs.
 - An open flexible mechanism in terms of budget and duration, adapted to the local situations, with an EU co-financing of up to 95%.
 - In two years 83 proposals were received, 18 projects selected and 1 consortium set up, ensuring that: i) all geographic ORs and OCTs are covered; ii) global, regional and local

levels are represented; iii) all sectors (public and private organizations, research community, civil society) are involved, and iv) a wide range of topics are addressed.

- It has mobilised €4 million of EU co-financing and more than €2 million of own contribution (more than €9 million considering all of the proposals submitted) In two years.

During the second part of the talk she described the BEST consortium aimed at sustaining the EU Preparatory Action, and highlighted some particular characteristics like:

- It is composed of 9 partners, coordinated from Brussels by the IUCN, with the help of 7 regional hubs (Polar and Sub-Polar, South Atlantic, Amazonian, Macaronesia, Pacific, Caribbean and Indian Ocean).
- The main activities and tasks include the set up of a Steering Committee (biannual meetings) and regional hubs, the development and management of an interactive Website, to facilitate information sharing on funding and fund-raising, and the development of ecosystem profiles and BEST strategies.



Photo 7 – Carole Martinez (International Union for Conservation of Nature – IUCN).

- **Janice Panton & Jimena Arango (Overseas Countries and Territories Association – OCTA)**, who highlighted the synergies between OCTA work and the NetBiome-CSA project with the presentation of title *“Enabling a diversity approach – General overview of OCTA’s research priority lines, networks, challenges and innovation examples in ORs and OCTs”*. Janice Panton explained OCTA mission, representing 22 European OCTs with a trans-regional scope from the largest island in extension (Greenland) to one of the smallest island in population (Pitcairn). The three priority areas or “pillars” for this association are related to cooperation, capacity building and communication ,and in this sense she stressed that:

- Through cooperation and regional integration OCTs aim to become more competitive within a sustainable economic development context –ongoing innovation policies–; they also want to be less vulnerable by promoting environmental resilience, valorisation of biodiversity and adaptation to climate change; hence, networking is needed for engaging the EC, the OCTs and the Member States.
- OCTA is committed to build capacity in each territory, supporting a Centre of Knowledge, Research and Innovation, as well as fostering human and social development through National Contact Points and participation in EU programmes.
- Good communication networks (internal and external) are vital to benefit from EU initiatives, while external relations can play a major role in greater public participation and linking with other regions and partners –including ORs and ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries.

Jimena Arango, in turn, went deeper into the environmental priority lines, pointing out related articles of the new Overseas Association Decision (OAD) 2014 – 2020 and outlining the main challenges for the European overseas from the OCTA point of view:

- There are 3 specific objectives for 2014 included in the OAD, i.e. i) getting a broader knowledge of the environmental policies, ii) defining the suitable framework for OCTA to develop projects on climate change and human effects, and iii) developing the networks for international cooperation with other environmental initiatives.
- Articles of the OAD deal with a wide variety of topics ranging from climate change to sustainable management of fish stocks, some of them with a special interest for the NetBiome-CSA project and the challenges being defined.
- OCTA expressed that the main challenges in ORs and OCTs for OCTA are related to the collaborative monitoring and control for protection and management, the need for scientific data collection –mainly on climate change issues, GIS modelling and risk assessment, as well as to the development of management and monitoring tools.

She finished presenting some examples of innovative environmental projects in OCTs, emphasizing that these territories are innovators of green growth and can generate capital on their individual culture in a sustainable manner. Regarding biodiversity loss and management, conservation should be mainstreamed into economic development strategies; therefore, a better coordination is needed between research institutions, and community based management should be strengthened.



Photos 8, 9 – Left to right: Janice Pantan & Jimena Arango (Overseas Countries and Territories Association – OCTA).

- **Antonio Abreu (Biologist)**, who addressed the subject of “*Biodiversity on the road to Green Economy*”. He started outlining the concept of sustainable development from a biodiversity approach, and linking the current dramatic scenario of biodiversity loss with the human impacts in the natural systems, especially during the last decades. Available scientific data and indicators show a kind of correlation between production and consumption patterns (increasing atmospheric CO₂ levels or global material extractions) and biodiversity trends (decreasing population indexes for terrestrial, marine and freshwater species). Along his presentation he underlined the following key ideas:
 - We are far beyond the limits regarding biodiversity loss, although in ORs and OCTs the situation in most cases is much better than the global picture.
 - Unlike current development models confirm, economy should be used as a tool for social development under safe environmental limits. There is an urgent need of understanding the global socio-ecological system, where biodiversity plays a central and decisive role.
 - Biodiversity is directly connected with the core concerns of society (welfare, health, climate change, prosperity and security of present and future generations, etc.).
 - The Green/Blue Economy Model is a good transition model but not the final. We should try to move one step forward to the Ecological Economics Model, shifting from “growth” to “development”.
 - Key principles for a transition to a sustainable model are to ensure resilience, secure sectorial and inter-sectorial investment, change monitoring and measurement indexes, assessment tools and practices, and connect biodiversity to real, fair and attractive jobs.

- Science and knowledge for biodiversity conservation need to be improved with regard to: inventories, conservation status, carrying capacity, management, monitoring, assessment, and communication, awareness and information.



Photo 10 – António Abreu (Biologist).

- **Javier P. Marrero (SME Interra S.L.)**, who displayed an example of an online tool designed to facilitate information exchange and decision-making in natural protected areas. He carried out the presentation entitled *“Building ICT tools for a sustainable future. Towards a sustainable future and a transition to green societies based on knowledge”*. He started enumerating some general challenges in relation to sustainability –management efficiency, public engagement, transparency, community empowerment, and knowledge and learning capacity–, within the framework of Biosphere Reserves and the UNESCO MaB Programme. Thus, it becomes a crucial aspect the linkage between the sustainable use of the territory and its natural resources and the activities like research and management, education and participation of local communities. In this context, he explained how information and communication technologies can play a significant role, highlighting the following issues:
 - Web-based platforms allow networking in protected areas all around the world, permitting the sharing of ideas, experiences, lessons and best practices, facilitating the access to scientific knowledge and expertise too.
 - They can also provide information and response capacity for managers and scientists, empowering sustainable communities to improve their access to the information and their decision-making capacity.
 - These platforms provide an educational tool with mapping and advanced communication services, to allow the strengthening of partnerships within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

- Web platforms can integrate various sustainability assessment instruments like environmental information systems, education and participation applications, and tools for indicators analysis too (pressure - response, performance and sustainability indicators).
- There exist different successful experiences of Web-based ITC tools recently implemented in UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, through initiatives like “Biosphere Smart”, “RBDigital” and “Ecosmart”.



Photo 11 – Javier P. Marrero (SME Interra SL).

- **Colin Hindmarch (Ecological Consultant)**, who closed the session giving a talk about the impact of growth in the cultural biodiversity entitled *“European ORs and OCTs: The role of growth in the sustainable exploitation, protection and continuing evolution of cultural biodiversity”*. He started with the conceptual definition of cultural biodiversity as “the product of humanities sustainable interaction with the environment including stock and crops, as well as their supporting landscapes and regional produce”. He then addressed an overview of the effect of policy-driven growth on productive capacity and cultural biodiversity, analyzed the impact of recent past events and made a plea for the research community to engage in advocacy, assuming that in the push for green and blue growth there will be good ideas but not enough attention to the lessons learned from the past. He shared some important ideas which reflected that:
 - Benefits from sustainable growth (within natural limits) –shaped environment, increased biodiversity, maintained and increased productive capacity, and cultural development– have been evidenced over generations.
 - Sustained levels of growth derive in over-exploitation problems such as loss of natural capital (biodiversity, crops, systems, produce), compromised production base (soil,

genetic potential), increased susceptibility to global change and epidemics, social dislocation (land abandonment and rural depopulation), income disparity and the loss of social cohesion, as well as reduced sense of “well being” (spiritual, aesthetic, cultural).

- The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has shown the role of policy in mediating growth patterns; they can transform the environment in a quick and radical manner, even threatening food security. Adaptable, sustainable and resilient traditional management systems are also capable of extending productive capacity, which are also potential baseline models for technological development and sources of genetic material.
- The aforementioned evidences and ideas should inform the policy debate and drive research. The research community in turn needs to become policy active, integrating these findings into all strategic processes, using coordinated action for improved knowledge transfer and assuming a greater responsibility in policy-making.
- The commitment of local populations will be necessary to develop a new and sustainable approach to growth, ensuring their involvement in decision-making and providing access to the benefits.



Photo 12 – Colin Hindmarch (Ecological Consultant).

Session 4. Challenges related to biodiversity management and conservation in ORs and OCTs

After the lunch break, the final session was chaired by Soraya Sierra (Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Task 4.1 facilitator) and consisted of an introductory presentation by Pablo Chavance, followed by a plenary debate with the general public:

- **Pablo Chavance (Economic Development Agency of New Caledonia – ADECAL, WP4 and Task 4.1 leader)** presented the process carried out before the conference in order to select the challenges to be addressed by the project, through the presentation *“Smart and sustainable management of (sub)tropical biodiversity: Collective definition of 4 common challenges and implications for research collaboration and policy landscape”*. Firstly he explained the:
 - Purpose and criteria that should guide the selection of the challenges, as a common denominator for research cooperation and joint activities in ORs and OCTs; these include sharing concerns, mobilizing knowledge and capacities, motivating interdisciplinary and trans-regional workgroup activities; and
 - Relevance, by responding to local needs, contributing to sustainable development, being a requirement for coordinated research and coherent with international and regional priorities like the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

He then commented on the following main steps and results of the process:

- The approach used was a stakeholder-driven process within a common framework comprising a review and analysis (23 documents) of biodiversity related strategic frameworks, and a preliminary inquiry (102 individual answers) of stakeholders from ORs and OCTs. Then it was followed by iterative consultations of the Stakeholders Panel (26 out of 52 members answered in 2 rounds), and finally a consensus, refinement and validation during the fourth session of the International Conference.
- Stakeholders Panel’s members were set up covering a broad representation of geographic regions, fields of expertise and sectors (knowledge institutions, enterprises, government and civil society).
- Preliminary results outlined a set of 6 challenge areas, i.e. i) spatial planning, ii) sustainable agriculture and forestry, iii) improve conservation and management status of habitats and species, iv) invasive species and bio-security, v) bio-resources, and vi) anthropic impacts mitigation.
- 3 cross-cutting issues were also identified: climate change, going beyond the scientific community, and improvement of the research environment.

Upon the ending of the presentation and once the context for the selection of the final challenges was described, a productive plenary debate with the participants was moderated by Soraya Sierra and Pablo Chavance.



Photo 13 – Pablo Chavance (Economic Development Agency of New Caledonia – ADECAL).

The main issues discussed during the second part of the session can be summarised in the following points:

- Approach to the selection of the final 4 most pressing common challenges
All the options were opened, from merging some of the 6 preliminary ones to redefining 4 new challenges. But this should be done taking into account that the challenge areas presented are the results of a previous long consultation process with all the stakeholders and the Stakeholders Panel.
- Stakeholders base
The possibility of increasing the sample size of the consultation process in underrepresented areas was suggested. But having a 50% –and no more– of members from the research community is already an asset for the project according to its initial objectives, being the marine and terrestrial fields both represented within the Stakeholders Panel in a quite balanced manner.
- Complementarity and Interdisciplinarity
To avoid duplicating the implications of the different EU strategies and directives for each of the challenges, it was recommended to think in terms of complementarity. On the other hand, sustainable development must be addressed from an interdisciplinary and holistic perspective; thus, it was reminded to always keep this idea in mind during all the processes involved in the project, ensuring a balanced mix of disciplines.
- Marine and coastal issues (including fisheries and aquaculture)
Although they had already been considered within the challenge areas, various options were proposed by participants to better address these issues. A first option was integrating fisheries and

aquaculture with agriculture and forestry; alternatively, it was also suggested to create a specific challenge on marine issues. This is the case of the PACE-Net project, and also because of the remarkable importance of the marine domain in ORs and OCTs, which besides provides several sustainable livelihoods in the European overseas. Finally, the last option was chosen for operational and strategic reasons.

- Invasive species

The suggestion to consider invasive species as a driver having impacts on many challenge areas (rather than a specific challenge area) was considered as the most relevant.

- Stock as part of agriculture

It was reminded that stock and not only crops must be considered when dealing with agriculture issues, since many of the ideas and proposals often tend to be based only on crops.

- Spatial planning

It could be also considered as a tool (for mitigating anthropogenic impacts) rather than as a challenge itself. On the other hand and due to the technical implications of the term “spatial planning”, a dichotomy of views arose among the public. Some supported that the challenge should be renamed, making reference to more integrated approaches and concepts like landscape management or natural resources management; meanwhile, others expressed the necessity of maintaining the expression –since it is a priority for the European Commission– in order to keep aligned with EU goals, objectives and wording as a roadmap for the project.

- Climate Change

There was a suggestion to add climate change to the challenge area of anthropogenic impacts mitigation, as a global driver interacting with regional and local scale impacts which are very important on islands. Finally, climate change and anthropogenic impacts were considered as cross-cutting drivers in all challenge areas.

- Tools for decision-makers

It was suggested that the project should focus on the production of such tools, especially for assessing the effectiveness of their decisions. In this sense, there is a lack of biodiversity indicators specifically designed for ORs and OCTs at the European level. It was also advocated that this kind of indicators should deal with ecosystem health, services and functioning, rather than with species.

- Information, communication and education

They should also be considered as fundamental drivers for achieving the goals related to the proposed challenges and to mainstreaming biodiversity concerns at all levels. One option is to make sure they are properly addressed as cross-cutting issues.

- Bio-resources

The potential of biodiversity as a source of knowledge, goods and services, and its implication for economic growth and legal disposition for equitable sharing of benefits should be taken into account as a cross-cutting issue. It was also proposed to think about the possibility of considering it as one of the final 4 challenges selected, since it is an area where researches, policymakers, companies and society in general have a potential asset. It is also related to bio-economy and smart specialisation in the context of Horizon 2020. On the contrary, others believed that this topic –at least regarding access and benefit sharing– is being implemented by the international community through the Nagoya Protocol and does not apply to ORs and OCTs separately.

- Economic valuation of ecosystem services

It was raised the question on how to take this issue into account; then it was mentioned that it should be implicit in the challenge area related to the integration of natural capital and services through spatial planning.

- NetBiome-CSA objectives

Some of the participants reminded that there should be a balance between the European Commission needs and the project innovative contribution. The goal should combine both getting aligned with the EU priority lines and funding schemes –especially those related to the Horizon 2020 programme–, and influencing new EU policies and approaches addressing local needs in ORs and OCTs.

- Final 4 challenges selected

Finally it was agreed on four challenges as follows:

- i) Spatial planning: integrating natural capital and services;
- ii) Sustainable agriculture and forestry practices;
- iii) Conservation and management status of ecosystems, habitats and species; and
- iv) Marine and coastal issues.

- Rephrasing the challenge titles

As part of the refinement process of the challenges, it was agreed that a work on rephrasing and developing more adequate titles for the challenges was going to be carried out during the workshop planned for the 28th of May.

At the end of the debate, all the attendants were invited to participate again in the first thematic workshops of the NetBiome-CSA project occurring the next day, and dedicated to the development of each of the four selected challenges. A list was circulated in order to register the preferences of each participant to be taken into account when organising the four challenge-specific workgroups.



Photos 14, 15, 16, 17 – Plenary debate with participants of the conference.

Part III – Conclusions and next steps

The first NetBiome-CSA International Conference (“Boosting sustainable development from high biodiversity: Prospects for green and blue growth in ORs and OCTs”) has become an important milestone of the project, as it has provided crucial information and necessary inputs, especially with regard to the final selection of the four most pressing common challenges related to biodiversity in ORs and OCTs. This has helped to establish the pillars for the next steps of the project, which will mainly involve addressing the challenges identified, producing research recommendations and policy briefs, exploring research partnership opportunities for developing a biodiversity management toolbox, as well as enhancing the sustainability of the project.

The support to the NetBiome-CSA initiative from the Regional Government of the Canary Islands at different levels (political, research and academic) was confirmed; furthermore, the high biodiversity of ORs and OCTs was remarked as an outstanding asset for ensuring human well being, innovation, research and sustainable economic development in these regions.

The sessions of the conference were planned with the aim of following a common thread conducting to the definition of the challenges to be addressed by the project. In this sense, session 2 was devoted to the

presentation of the background and the current status of the project, including the results of its first deliverable. During the next session, there was also an opportunity to listen to international experts on new ideas and tools that can positively contribute to the development of the project. And finally the challenges were presented, debated, readjusted and selected in the final session.

The four most pressing challenges to biodiversity conservation and management in support of sustainable development in ORs and OCTs selected by the project at the end of the conference were:

- I. Spatial planning: Integrating natural capital and services;
- II. Sustainable agriculture and forestry practices;
- III. Improved conservation and management status of ecosystems, habitats and species;
- IV. Marine and coastal issues.

This selection and the previous debate was used as a basis for the first thematic workshop of the project, that was held the day after with the goal of addressing and developing each of the four challenges through parallel specific workgroups. As a consequence, 4 working groups were created to deal with each of the challenges.

The event gathered more than 40 participants from different parts of the world, i.e from 9 ORs and OCTs (Azores, Guadeloupe, Madeira, Martinique, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Reunion, the Caribbean Netherlands, and the Canary Islands), from 6 mainland EU countries (France, Germany, Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, United Kingdom) and from 2 non EU countries (Cape Verde and Barbados), including representatives and experts from all levels of the quadruple helix (knowledge institutions, enterprises, government and civil society).

All the presentations made during the conference are available in the NetBiome-CSA website through the following link: <http://www.netbiomecsa.netbiome.eu/np4/78.html>.



Photos 18, 19 – Participants exchange impressions during lunch break.

Part IV – Press and media impact

The conference was covered by different national and regional media, including written press, TV and radio channels. In this sense, the organising team also arranged some interviews with the speakers involved in this first session and the project coordinator after Session 1 of the conference.

More specifically, a survey in Internet has been carried out, finding the following results with regard to the impact in the media:

- The event was announced in the EC Community Research and Development Information System (CORDIS): <https://cordis.europa.eu/wire/index.cfm?fuseaction=article.Detail&rcn=44653>.
- 5 newspapers published an article on the same day of the conference (see Annex III).
- 2 national Spanish TV (TVE, Antena 3) and 1 regional TV (Televisión Canaria) covered the event. An interview with the project coordinator is also available in internet: http://www.antena3.com/canarias/noticias/sociedad/potenciar-protector-jardines-submarinos-canarias_2014052700274.html
- 1 national public radio included the event in the news podcast corresponding to the 27th May 2014: <http://www.rtve.es/alacarta/audios/archipelago-noticias/archipelago-noticias-27-05-14/2584558/>

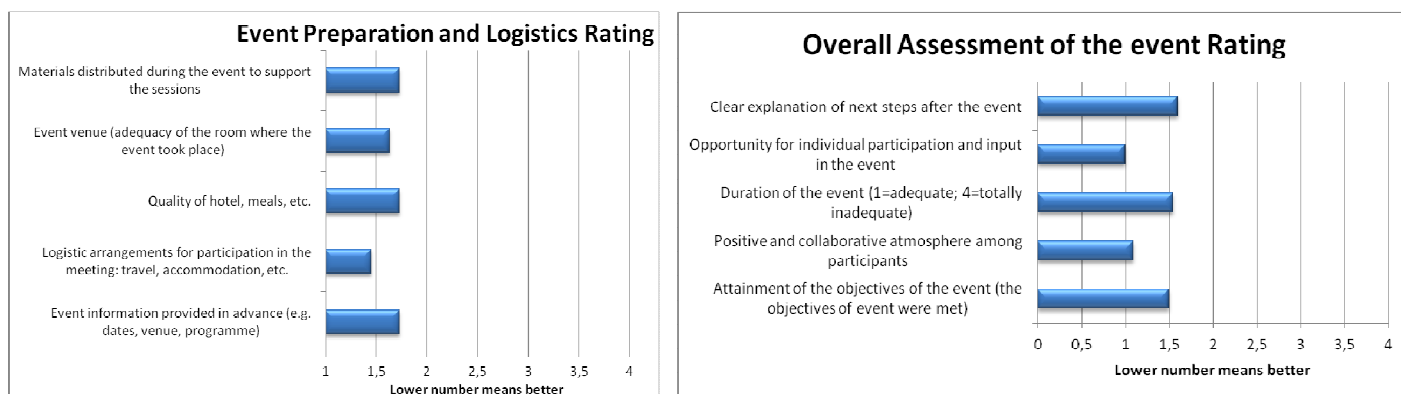


Photo 20 – Media interviews. Left to right: José Regidor (Rector of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria), José Azevedo (FRC, NetBiome-CSA coordinator) and Juan Ruiz Alzola (Director of the Canary Islands Agency for Research, Innovation and Society of Information).

Part V – Conference Evaluation

During the event, evaluation questionnaires were distributed among participants in order to gather information about their assessment of the conference and suggestions for future events. However, the questionnaires collected amount to less than half the number of participants, this being a handicap for a more realistic evaluation.

The overall results for the event are quite positive and show high rating in the assessment of both the event itself and its preparation and logistics. The highest scores (horizontal lower number in the graph means better) were given to the logistic arrangements, the opportunity for individual participation, and the positive and collaborative atmosphere of the conference.



Figures 1 & 2 – Conference evaluation ratings (event preparation and overall assessment).

On the other hand, comments made by participants within the evaluation are also very positive in general and highlighted different aspects like:

- “Hotel nice. Very good venue. Very nice and helpful hosts in Canarias”;
- “Dates need to be set a bit further in advance if possible”;
- “Generally a very positive experience”;
- “Some excellent talks and good progress. Lively and relevant discussion” (for Session 2);
- “Some interesting and diverse perspectives” (for Session 3);
- “Excellent scene setup and session” (for Session 4).



NetBiome-CSA

Strengthening European research cooperation for **smart and sustainable management of tropical and subtropical biodiversity** in Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

*“Boosting sustainable development from high biodiversity: Prospects for **green and blue** growth in ORs and OCTs”*

The main goal of this event is to provide an overview of potential scenarios for green and blue development in ORs and OCTs based on the high biodiversity of these (sub)tropical European entities. Moreover, the NetBiome-CSA project and its progress to date will be presented, enabling the discussion of the four most pressing challenges related to biodiversity in ORs and OCTs found by the consortium. The latter will lead to the establishment of four multidisciplinary workgroups focused on addressing those challenges. In addition, it will be an opportunity to obtain guidance and innovative ideas from international experts.

PLACE: PLOCAN facilities (Gran Canaria Island, Canary Islands, Spain)

DATE: Tuesday, 27th of May 2014

When	What
8:00h	Bus transport from meeting point to PLOCAN / Registration of participants
9:00h	<p>Session 1: Welcome and institutional opening Chair: Octavio Llinás, Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands - PLOCAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Welcome and introduction</i> (Octavio Llinás, Director of PLOCAN). - <i>Institutional opening</i> (José Regidor, Rector of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria). - <i>Institutional opening</i> (Juan Ruiz Alzola, Director of the Canary Islands Agency for Research, Innovation and Society of Information – ACIISI. Regional Government of the Canary Islands).
9:40h	<p>Session 2: The NetBiome-CSA project: biodiversity in ORs and OCTs Chair: José Azevedo, Portuguese Regional Fund for Science - FRC</p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The NetBiome-CSA project: where we came from and where we are going</i> (José Azevedo, FRC). - <i>A view on the characteristics of stakeholders involved in tropical and subtropical biodiversity in ORs and OCTs</i> (Vanessa Weck, Guadeloupe Region - RG). - <i>Terrestrial and marine bioclimatic characterization of the ORs & OCTs</i> (Niels Raes, Stichting Naturalis Biodiversity Center - NATURALIS). - <i>Evidence on the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services in ORs and OCTs</i> (Holger Gerdes, Ecologic Institute - ECOLOGIC).



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement No 603710

11:00h	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30h	<p>Session 3: Sustainable development from high biodiversity in ORs and OCTs Chair: Marimar Villagarcía, PLOCAN</p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The European Initiative BEST, a new European scheme dedicated to ORs and OCTs</i> (Carole Martinez, International Union for Conservation of Nature – IUCN). - <i>Enabling a diversity approach - General overview of OCTA's research priority lines, network, challenges & innovation examples in ORs and OCTs</i> (Janice Panton & Jimena Arango M., Overseas Countries and Territories Association – OCTA). - <i>Biodiversity on the road to Green Economy</i> (António Abreu, Biologist). - <i>Information technologies to build a sustainable future and a transition to green societies based on knowledge; Interactive Mapping Tool for Biosphere Reserves and similar territories</i> (Javier P. Marrero, Interra SL). - <i>European ORs and OCTs: The role of green and blue growth in the exploitation, protection and continuing evolution of cultural biodiversity</i> (Colin Hindmarch, Ecological Consultant).
13:30h	<i>Lunch Break</i>
15:00h	<p>Session 4: Challenges related to biodiversity management and conservation in ORs and OCTs Chair: Soraya Sierra, NATURALIS</p> <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Smart and sustainable management of (sub)tropical biodiversity: Collective definition of 4 common challenges and implications for research collaboration and policy landscape</i> (Pablo Chavance, Economic Development Agency of New Caledonia). <p>Plenary debate with general public Facilitators: Vanessa Weck (Guadeloupe Region – RG); Josiane Irissin-Mangata (Reunion Region – RR); Soraya Sierra (NATURALIS); José Azevedo (FRC); Pablo Chavance (ADECAL).</p> <p>Wrap-up, conclusions and next steps (Pablo Chavance, ADECAL)</p>
17:00h*	<i>End of Conference</i>

*17:00 – 18:00h: *WP4 meeting - preparation of the workshops (only for Consortium)*

20:00h: *Dinner – Restaurant to be confirmed*

Annex II – List of participants

		INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (27th of May 2014)	
Last name	First name	Organisation / Company	Country
Abreu	António D	Biologist	Portugal
Abreu	Cristina	University of Madeira	Portugal
Arango M	Jimena	OCTA - Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories of the EU	Belgium
Archimède	Harry	INRA - Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique	France
Azevedo	José	Fundo Regional para a Ciência	Portugal
Berheide	Bruno	Spanish Bank of Algae	Spain
Borges	Paulo A V	University of the Azores	Portugal
Carvalho	Telmo	EurOcean - European Centre for Information on Marine Science and Technology	Portugal
Caujapé-Castells	Juli	Jardín Botánico Canario	Spain
CHAVANCE	Pablo	ADECAL - Agence de Developpement de la Nouvelle Calédonie	France
Correia	Assis	Câmara de Comércio e Indústria da Madeira	Portugal
FARMAN	Richard	Aquarium des Lagons de Nouvelle-Calédonie	France
Fazekas	Dora	SPI - Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação	Portugal
Gabriel	Rosalina	University of the Azores	Portugal
Gamo Campos	Diego	PLOCAN - Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands	Spain
Gerdes	Holger	ECOLOGIC Institute	Germany
Hawkins	Stephen	University of Southampton	United Kingdom
Hendriks	Rob	Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs	Netherlands
Hindmarch	Colin	E.L.P.D	United Kingdom
Hoetjes	Paul	Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs	Netherlands
Horrocks	Julia	University of the West Indies	Barbados
IRISSIN-MANGATA	Marie Josiane	Région Réunion	France
LE SCAO	Rozenn	Parc Naturel Regional de Martinique	France
Llinás	Octavio	PLOCAN - Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands	Spain
Manent	Pablo	University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Spain
Marrero	Javier P.	INTERRA S.L.	Spain
Martin	Victor	Universidad de La Laguna	Spain

Martinez	Carole	IUCN - International Union for Conservation of Nature	Switzerland
Martins	Albertino	INDP - Instituto Nacional de Desenvolvimento das Pescas	Cape Verde
Martins	António	Universidade dos Açores	Portugal
MINATCHY	Nathalie	Kap Gwadeloup	France
Nascimento	Gisela	FRC - Fundo Regional para a Ciência	Portugal
Nivet	Cécile	ANR - Agence Nationale de la Recherche	France
Panton	Janice	OCTA - Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories of the EU	United Kingdom
Patrão Neves	Maria	European Parliament	Portugal
Pinto	Francisco	Fundo Regional para a Ciência	Portugal
Raes	Niels	NATURALIS Biodiversity Center	Netherlands
Regidor	José	Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Spain
Ruiz Alzola	Juan	Agencia Canaria de Investigación, Innovación y Sociedad de la Información	Spain
Sierra	Soraya	NATURALIS Biodiversity Center	Netherlands
Stapel	Johan	CNSI - NIOZ Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute	Netherlands
Stech	Michael	NATURALIS Biodiversity Center	Netherlands
Suárez	Almudena	Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Spain
Villagarcía	Marimar	PLOCAN - Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands	Spain
WECK	Vanessa	Regional council of Guadeloupe	France

Gente y Culturas

Investigación



El rector, José Regidor (l.), Octavio Ullón, director de Plocan (c.), y Juan Ruiz (d.), ayer en la conferencia de Biome. | JAVIER CRUZ

Canarias se une a seis regiones de la UE para impulsar la economía azul

La sede de la Plataforma Oceánica acoge la primera conferencia internacional del proyecto europeo de cooperación en red 'Biome'

C.S. LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIAS

Canarias participa junto a otras seis regiones y países de la Unión Europea en el proyecto NetBlue: CSA con el que se pretende impulsar la economía azul, basada en la explotación de los recursos de la zona respetando su biodiversidad. La primera conferencia internacional de la red Biome se celebró ayer en la sede de la Plataforma Oceánica de Canarias (Plocan).

Con el título *Fomentando el desarrollo sostenible basado en una alta biodiversidad*, el primer día de crecimiento verde y azul en las regiones *Blue Regions* y (BRP) y en las países y territorios de ultramar (PTU) se celebró el primer día de debate del proyecto, que arranca en enero de 2014, y que tiene como objetivo reforzar la cooperación en el campo de la investigación para la gestión sostenible.

Con este proyecto estamos intentando encontrar la manera de vincular las biodiversidades de la UE en materia de biodiversidad y, al mismo tiempo, que los territorios tienen conciencia de cómo que tiene esa biodiversidad para un modelo económico basado en la economía azul y la economía azul", explicó ayer José Acevedo, de la Universidad de Avignon y líder del proyecto.

En este sentido, Acevedo aclaró que la red Biome no es exclusivamente un proyecto científico. Muchos de los que estamos haciendo es investigación sino del sitio, áreas de cómo mejorar la biodiversidad de los recursos, acciones para protegerla y la definición de objetivos de desarrollo económico

Cuatro apoyos

► Potenciación Consorcio

El proyecto parte de un consorcio de investigación sobre biodiversidad en BRP y PTU (Red Biome) enfocado hacia la financiación de una actividad científica de excelencia en apoyo del desarrollo sostenible. Tiene un presupuesto total de un millón de euros en los próximos 36 meses de ejecución. El consorcio está formado por 13 socios de 4 países y ahora el proyecto de cooperación en red tendrá el rol de realizar un mayor número de acciones procedentes de la denominación de "cultura azul", el objetivo de la investigación, del sector empresarial, desde los gobiernos y también de la sociedad civil.

► Participación Cooperación

Se celebró ayer en esta conferencia con la participación de unas 50 personas procedentes de al menos 7 regiones y 7 países europeos (Alemania, Bélgica, España, Francia, Irlanda, Portugal y Reino Unido) y de PTU en otros como Nueva Caledonia, Martinica, Guadalupe, Reunión, Antillas Holandesas, Azores, Madeira y Canarias, y otros países fuera de la UE como Cabo Verde y Barbados, en representación de entidades relacionadas con la biodiversidad (científica), que atacarán la investigación, empresas, gobierno y sociedad civil e incluyen expertos y representantes de instituciones y organizaciones internacionales. La conferencia se celebró cinco días después del día internacional de la Biodiversidad que este año se ha dedicado precisamente a la diversidad biológica de los territorios insulares. Las BRP y los PTU europeos son comunidades autónomas de alta biodiversidad terrestre, acuática y marina.

con instituciones y empresas".

Se estima que alrededor de un 80% de la riqueza natural de especies en las costas y mares de la región de la Unión Europea se localizan en las regiones de ultramar y los territorios adyacentes del continente, como el caso de Canarias, todos ellos situados en la Macaronesia, el Caribe incluso en el área del Pacífico.

Sin embargo, las políticas de dotación de recursos no hacen un reparto proporcional a esa distribución del mayor número de especies a proteger y conservar. "Estas regiones poseen una alta concentración de biodiversidad y un gran potencial económico pero las inversiones están concentradas en la Europa continental, recursos que se deberían repartir de manera que podamos marcar la agenda de decisiones de organismos como la OCEAN, del que partimos la declaración de reservas de biodiversidad, o de los propios ministerios de Medio Ambiente, encargados de señalar aquellas áreas naturales con diferente nivel de protección".

El rector de la Universidad ginecense, José Regidor, dijo tras la inauguración de la conferencia que su institución "ha defendido durante su relación con los estudios oceanográficos y la biodiversidad de las islas, y que es imprescindible por ello seguir profundizando sobre lo que ocurre en el mar y a partir de ahí cómo generamos economía azul pero sostenible".

Una economía que, a juicio de Juan Ruiz Alaña, director de la Agencia Canaria de Investigación del Gobierno canario. "Haciendo en la investigación y en la innovación es desarrollo económico y social".

Sanidad

Un 9,3% de los jóvenes deja de fumar cada vez que el tabaco sube su precio un 10%

Un estudio subraya que se lograrían 93.000 abandonos y reducir más de 3.000 muertes

Efe MADRID

El incremento de impuestos del tabaco es la medida más eficaz para reducir el consumo ya que cada 10% de subida del precio supone que un 3,7% de adultos y un 9,3% de jóvenes dejan de fumar. Esta es una de las principales conclusiones del informe "La fiscalidad del tabaco y la salud", elaborado por el Comité Nacional para la Prevención del Tabaquismo (CNPT) y presentado ayer en una rueda de prensa.

Según este estudio, con un aumento de precios del 5% se podrían conseguir más de 93.000 abandonos del tabaquismo y una reducción de más de 3.000 muertes a lo largo de los próximos 20 años en este país.

El informe hace constar que la carga fiscal que soporta el tabaco en España es el décimo menor entre los 15 países más desarrollados de la Unión Europea, los que han aumentado antes de las últimas ampliaciones.

En concreto, en España la cajetilla de cigarrillos (su precio medio actual es de 4,3 euros) soporta una carga de 2,6 euros en impuestos especiales, inferior a la media (3,30 euros) que se aplica en la UE-15, desde los extremos estos impuestos por Luxemburgo (2,21) y Reino Unido (3,76).

La conclusión es que hay países con mayor carga impositiva que España. En los países del resto de la UE, los precios medios y las cargas fiscales son inferiores que en la UE-15, excepto los casos de Malta y Chipre, cuyas cargas fiscales son similares a las de España. El CNPT, que agrupa a expertos y asociaciones profesionales y científicas, considera que en España hay un "gran margen" para aumentar el precio de los cigarrillos, ofreciendo así con la propuesta de la OMS, que con motivo del Día Mundial sin Tabaco 2014 ha solicitado a sus países que incrementen sus impuestos.

Según las cifras que maneja el Comité, el tabaco genera unos costes sanitarios y sociales que significan "más del doble" de la recaudación fiscal que obtiene el Estado.

En concreto, en España la cajetilla de cigarrillos (su precio medio actual es de 4,3 euros) soporta una carga de 2,6 euros en impuestos especiales, inferior a la media (3,30 euros) que se aplica en la UE-15, desde los extremos estos impuestos por Luxemburgo (2,21) y Reino Unido (3,76).

El pronóstico del cáncer de mama es mejor con pareja

Efe BARCELONA

Las mujeres con pareja tienen un mejor pronóstico en casos de cáncer de mama en estudios del ICAI. El estudio a cabo entre 1980 y 2010 y concluye que el estado emocional y sentimental puede influir, según ha explicado el director del Programa de Cáncer de Mama y Mamarion del Hospital Vall d'Hebron, Javier Lozano.

El estudio, que se presentó en el 50 Congreso de la Sociedad Americana de Oncología (ASCO), ha sido realizado entre 549.585 mujeres con cáncer de mama en estudios del ICAI. El estudio a cabo entre 1980 y 2010 y concluye que el estado emocional y sentimental puede influir, según ha explicado el director del Programa de Cáncer de Mama y Mamarion del Hospital Vall d'Hebron, Javier Lozano.

CIENCIA

La obesidad sube con la crisis al recurrir las familias a los alimentos con más calorías

La crisis ha contribuido al aumento de la obesidad en los últimos años porque las familias con pocos recursos han sustituido alimentos como frutas y verduras por otros con más calorías, según un estudio de la Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Económico (OCDE). Dentro de Europa, esas pausas

de comportamiento que favorecen el sobrepeso se han causado especialmente en España, Italia, Grecia, Portugal, Irlanda y Eslovenia. Según los datos más recientes (que corresponden a 2012-2011, según los países) en los últimos cinco años el porcentaje de obesidad ha seguido creciendo, pero a un ritmo menor.

El Archipiélago, donde más cae el precio de la vivienda en lo que va de año

Europa Press
MADRID

Canarias fue la Comunidad Autónoma en la que más bajó el precio de la vivienda en el primer trimestre del año, en comparación con el mismo periodo del año anterior, al registrar una caída del 10,7%, según datos de la Sociedad de Tasación. En España, el precio medio de la vivienda bajó un 6,3% durante el primer trimestre del año hasta situarse en 1.270 euros por metro cuadrado. De esta forma, el precio de los pisos, tanto nuevos como usados, acumula una contracción del 47,1% respecto al importe máximo de 2.400 euros que alcanzó en 2007, antes de que estallara la burbuja inmobiliaria y comenzara la crisis.

No obstante, Sociedad de Tasación apunta a que los datos del primer trimestre presentan una más moderada caída de los precios, sobre todo en las viviendas de mayor calidad, donde la caída de los tres primeros meses del año se reduce al 3%.

En ese sentido, destaca el hecho de que las ciudades de Barcelona y Sevilla cerraron los tres primeros meses del año con subidas en el precio medio de los pisos, del 0,5% en la Ciudad Condal y del 3,4% en la capital andaluza.

En el lado opuesto, las ciudades que experimentaron el mayor ajuste en el precio de la vivienda son Zaragoza y Bilbao, con descensos del 14,5% y del 14,1%, respectivamente.

Más Canarias, la Comunidad Valenciana fue la segunda Comunidad Autónoma que registró un mayor descenso en el precio medio de la vivienda, con una bajada del 10,5%. Las caídas menos acusadas se localizaron en Cantabria (-1,3%), Navarra (-2,6%) y Galicia (-3%).



El rector, José Regidor (f.), Octavio Linares, director de Ptoacan (c) y Juan Ruiz (d), ayer en la conferencia de Biome. / A. c.

Las Islas se unen a seis regiones de la UE para impulsar la 'economía azul'

La sede de la Plataforma Oceánica acoge la primera conferencia internacional del proyecto de cooperación en red 'Biome'

C. S.
LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

Canarias participa junto a otras seis regiones y siete países de la Unión Europea en el proyecto NetBiome-CSA con el que se pretende impulsar la economía azul, basada en la explotación de los recursos de los océanos respetando su biodiversidad. La primera conferencia internacional de la red Biome se celebró ayer en la sede de la Plataforma Oceánica de Canarias (Ptoacan).

Con el título 'Fomentando el desarrollo sostenible basado en una alta biodiversidad: Perspectivas de crecimiento verde y azul en las regiones ultraperiféricas y (RUP) y en los países y territorios de ultramar (PTU) se celebró el primera reunión de debate del proyecto, que arrancó en mayo de 2013, y que tiene como objetivo reforzar la cooperación en el campo de la investi-

gación para la gestión sostenible.

"Con este proyecto estamos intentado concentrar, unificar las gestiones entre las regiones para encontrar maneras de enfocar las inversiones de la UE en materia de biodiversidad y, al mismo tiempo, que los territorios tomen conciencia del valor que tiene esa biodiversidad para un modelo económico basado en la economía verde y la economía azul", explicó ayer José Acevedo, de la Universidad de Azores y líder del proyecto.

En este sentido, Acevedo añadió que la red Biome no es exclusivamente un proyecto científico. Mucho de lo que estamos haciendo no es investigación sino debates, maneras de conocer mejor la biodiversidad de las regiones, acciones para protegerla y la definición de objetivos de desarrollo económico con instituciones y empresas".

Se estima que alrededor de un 80% de la riqueza natural de espe-

cies en los océanos y terrestres de la geografía de la Unión Europea se localiza en las regiones de ultramar y los territorios alejados del continente, como el caso de Canarias, todos ellos situados en la Macaronesia, el Caribe e incluso en el área del Pacífico.

Sin embargo, las políticas de dotación de recursos no hacen un reparto proporcional a esa distribución del mayor número de especies a proteger y conservar. "Estas regiones poseen una alta concentración de biodiversidad y un gran potencial económico pero las inversiones están centradas en la Europa continental", reconoció Acevedo, quien añadió que proyectos como el de la red Biome pueden marcar la agenda de decisiones de organismos como la Unesco, del que parten la declaración de reservas de la biosfera, o de los propios ministerios de Medio Ambiente.

► Potenciación

El proyecto parte de un consorcio de investigación sobre biodiversidad en RUP y PTU (ERA, Net Biome) enfocado hacia la financiación de una actividad científica de excelencia en apoyo del desarrollo sostenible. Tiene un presupuesto total de un 1.121.000 euros y 36 meses de ejecución. El consorcio está formado por 13 socios de seis países y ahora el proyecto de cooperación en red forma el reto de movilizar un mayor número de actores procedentes de la denominada cuádruple hélice: el apoyo de la investigación, del sector empresarial, desde los gobiernos y también de la sociedad civil.

► Participación

Se contó ayer en esta conferencia con la participación de unas 50 personas procedentes de al menos siete regiones y siete países europeos (Alemania, Bélgica, España, Francia, Holanda, Portugal y Reino Unido), y de RUP y PTU europeos: Nueva Caledonia, Martinica, Guadalupe, Reunión, Antillas Holandesas, Azores, Madeira y Canarias, y otros países fuera de la UE como Cabo Verde y Barbados, en representación de entidades relacionadas con la biodiversidad subtropical, que abarcan la investigación, empresas, gobierno y sociedad civil e incluyen expertos y representantes de instituciones y organizaciones internacionales. La conferencia se celebró cinco días después del Día Internacional de la Biodiversidad que este año se ha dedicado precisamente a la diversidad biológica de los territorios insulares. Las RUP y los PTU europeos son conocidos puntos de alta biodiversidad terrestre, acuática y marina.

► Ulpgc

El rector de la Universidad gran-canaria, José Regidor, dijo que su institución "ha definido claramente su vocación con los estudios oceánicos y la biodiversidad de las islas" y que es imprescindible por ello "seguir profundizando sobre lo que ocurre en el mar y a partir de ahí cómo generar una economía azul y sostenible".

► Achilsi

Bases. Para Juan Ruiz Alzola el modelo debe basarse en "la investigación y en la innovación es desarrollo económico y social".

África reclama cursos de formación para sus empresas desde Canarias

Paulino Rivero 'vende' la Comunidad Autónoma como un centro de negocios a embajadores en países del continente vecino

Josquín ANASTASIO
MADRID

Los países de África Occidental apuestan cada vez más por la intensificación de las relaciones económicas y comerciales con Canarias y por incidir en la llamada diplomacia económica para que desde el Archipiélago se pueda ofrecer, a través de Casa África, una amplia oferta de cursos de formación para sus trabajadores y pequeños empresarios. Esta fue una de las cuestiones que plantearon

ayer varios embajadores africanos al presidente de Canarias, Paulino Rivero, y al director general de Casa África, Luis Padrón, durante la reunión del Consejo Diplomático de la entidad celebrado en la sede del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y Cooperación en Madrid, en la que el mandatario autonómico presentó la estrategia de internacionalización del Archipiélago como plataforma económica y comercial tricontinental.

A esta reunión anual del Consejo Diplomático asistieron 21 de los

23 embajadores de países africanos acreditados en Madrid y contó con la presencia del secretario de Estado de Asuntos Exteriores, González de Benito. En ella, varios representantes diplomáticos demandaron al Ministerio y a Canarias "apoyos para llevar a cabo seminarios en Casa África, actividades de formación que les permita a sus pequeñas y medianas empresas mejorar su competitividad", según explicó Rivero, quien presentó el portal con el que su Gobierno promoverá a las Islas como plataforma logis-



Reunión del Consejo Diplomático de Casa África, ayer, en Madrid. / Lor

ca y centro de negocios. Rivero insistió en que "Canarias tiene conectividad, ofrece seguridad jurídica, dispone de unos servicios avanzados y el conocimiento para llevar

a cabo actividad económica en colaboración con los países africanos en campos como la obra civil, la sanidad, la educación, las energías limpias o la producción de agua".

Récord de envíos humanitarios de Cruz Roja pese a los recortes

» EL CENTRO LOGÍSTICO DE CANARIAS LLEVÓ EN 2013 AYUDA A TRES CONTINENTES

El Centro Logístico de Ayuda Humanitaria de Canarias de la Cruz Roja desarrolló en 2013 doce operaciones de envío de material a zonas necesitadas, la mayor cantidad de acciones de ese tipo de su historia, pese a que en ese año se redujo a la mitad el dinero que recibió de administraciones públicas.

EFE / LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

La organización humanitaria canalizó así desde dicho centro, uno de los únicos cuatro de su tipo que posee en todo el mundo y fundado en 2009, envíos de ayudas por valor de 401.000 euros, cifra bastante superior a la que alcanzó en 2012, que fue de 338.500 euros, según declaró ayer al presentar el balance del trabajo desarrollado en 2013 desde esas instalaciones su portavoz Blas Hernández.

Como encargado de la responsabilidad social corporativa del Centro Logístico de Ayuda Humanitaria de Canarias, Hernández valoró especialmente esa mejora de los resultados de su labor, que han crecido también en cuanto al ámbito geográfico atendido, llegando por vez primera a países de tres continentes diferentes, por las circunstancias de dificultad en que se han registrado. Ya que, en buena medida a consecuencia de la crisis económica, el pasado «ha sido un ejercicio bastante complejo, con escasas ayudas institucionales y con grandes dificultades para dar visibilidad a situaciones dramáticas que ocurren en países muy cercanos a nosotros, que estamos a escasos cien kilómetros de la costa africana», argumentó.

Destacando que África, que ha recordado que aglutina 1.200 millones de habitantes, el doble que la Unión Europea, repartidos entre 56 países, mantiene la renta per cápita más baja de todos los continentes y es escenario de «múltiples situaciones de crisis y de gran necesidad humanitaria y de alto riesgo».



Materiales de emergencia de Cruz Roja. Gerardo Mesa (a la derecha) y Juan Campos observan la exposición.

UN VIAJE SOLIDARIO DE SUDÁN A LÍBANO

AYUDA A ZONAS QUE LO NECESITAN

■ **Envíos a nueve países.** Benín, Camerún, Namibia, Sudán y Senegal fueron en el año 2013 los destinos africanos de envíos de ayuda humanitaria efectuados desde el centro isleño de Cruz Roja, que también ha canalizado material de emergencia a Jordania y Líbano, para asistir a población refugiada como consecuencia del conflicto armado de Siria, y de cooperación a Cuba, en virtud de acuerdos de colaboración suscritos con ese país.

■ **La mitad que en 2012.** Blas Hernández, portavoz de Cruz Roja, recaló que todos los envíos humanitarios que han sido posibles incluso a pesar de la «drástica disminución de ayudas institucionales» que se ha registrado en el centro en 2013, cuando aquellas bajaron «casi un 50 % respecto a 2012» y se situaron, en conjunto, en unos 29.000 euros, cifra que se espera que no se supere en el presente ejercicio, pese a que es «bastante exigua».

■ **Empresas y particulares.** El presidente de Cruz Roja Española en Canarias, Gerardo Mesa, subrayó que el descenso de aportaciones públicas en los años de la crisis se ha visto compensado por el aumento de las de empresas y particulares. Mesa insistió en que todavía es preciso que una cifra más amplia de «empresas y particulares se concienten de la necesidad de esta ayuda» que hace falta destinar a países desfavorecidos o con situaciones de catástrofes y conflictos.



En la sede de la Plocan. Asistentes a la conferencia internacional.

Canarias quiere ser referente en investigaciones de biodiversidad

CANARIAS 7 / LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

■ El director de la Agencia Canaria de Investigación, Innovación y Sociedad de la Información, Juan Ruiz Alzola, solicitó ayer que las regiones ultraperiféricas (RUP) sean tenidas como referentes en el desarrollo de investigaciones sobre biodiversidad en el marco de la Unión Europea.

Alzola habló así en la inauguración, junto al rector de la Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, José Regidor, y el director de la Plataforma Océánica de Canarias, Octavio Llinás, de la primera conferencia internacional organizada por el proyecto NetBiome-CSA, financiada por el Séptimo Programa Marco de Investigación de la Unión Europea (UE) 2007-2013.

Se enfrenta a 18 años preso por presunto abuso sexual

» Según el fiscal, narcotizó a una niña con fines lúbricos

A. F. G. / LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

■ La Sección Primera de la Audiencia tiene previsto celebrar mañana, miércoles, la vista oral del juicio que se sigue contra el vecino de Las Palmas José Manuel M.V., sin antecedentes penales, para quien el fiscal pide un total de 18 años de cárcel como presunto autor de dos delitos de abuso sexual, uno con carácter continuado, supuestamente consumados sobre dos menores.

Según la acusación en el año 2011 el acusado estuvo abusando con frecuencia «semanal» de la hija de la mujer con la que convivía en relación análoga a la conyugal, cuando la niña aún no había cumplido los 13 años.

Dice la Fiscalía que «aprovechaba las ocasiones en las que se quedaba a solas con la menor, o bien aquellas otras en las que la madre de ésta se quedaba dormida» para someterla a tocamientos en su zona genital «que dieron paso a varias penetraciones por vía vaginal». Apunta la acusación que las conductas delictivas continuaron hasta noviembre de 2012.

El informe de la acusación pública apunta que en la noche del 10 de noviembre de 2012 la presunta víctima de los abusos invitó a dormir en la casa a una amiga que entonces tenía 11 años.

Cuando los tres se encontraban en el sofá del cuarto de estar, el acusado «comenzó a tocar la zona genital» de la invitada, cesando en su comportamiento cuando ésta, «molesta por lo sucedido», se levantó del sofá.

■ **SEDADA.** Añade el informe de la Fiscalía que, como quiera que esta segunda niña volvió a quedarse a dormir en la casa siete días después, el acusado le suministró en la leche, «sin que pueda precisarse la dosis», un medicamento denominado Lormetazepam, cuyo principio activo, la benzodiazepina, es de efectos relajantes, sedantes e hipnóticos. Dice la acusación pública que lo hizo «con el propósito de vencer cualquier tipo de oposición» por parte de la niña.

Concluye que el acusado no logró sus propósitos porque la otra niña, que no había tomado sedantes, se llevó a la amiga a su cuarto.

PORTADA > EDUCACIÓN

EDUCACIÓN -2014-05-27 - Actualizada a las 09:44

La sede de PLOCAN en Taliarte acoge la primera conferencia internacional del proyecto NetBiome-CSA

Participarán unas 50 personas procedentes de 7 regiones para debatir sobre la biodiversidad

TELDEACTUALIDAD

Telde.- La Plataforma Oceánica de Canarias (PLOCAN) será la sede este martes, 27 de mayo, de la primera conferencia internacional organizada por el proyecto internacional NetBiome-CSA, financiado por el Séptimo Programa Marco (7PM) de investigación de la Unión Europea (UE) 2007 – 2013.

Con el título *Fomentando el desarrollo sostenible basado en una alta biodiversidad: Perspectivas de crecimiento verde y azul en las RUP y en los PTU*, este evento inicia una serie de hitos y encuentros internacionales previstos por el proyecto NetBiome-CSA, que está dirigido a reforzar la cooperación en el campo de la investigación para la gestión sostenible de la biodiversidad en las RUP y en los PTU de la UE.



Sede de la PLOCAN en Taliarte (Foto TA)

"La conferencia internacional es una de las diversas actividades organizadas por el proyecto que tendrán lugar durante la última semana de mayo en Gran Canaria, y supone una excelente oportunidad para que los diferentes interesados puedan presentar y discutir sus ideas sobre temas relacionados con la conservación y la valorización de la biodiversidad en el ultramar europeo", asegura José Azevedo, coordinador del proyecto NetBiome-CSA.

El objetivo principal de la conferencia es proporcionar una panorámica de los escenarios potenciales para el "desarrollo verde y azul" en las RUP y los PTU, basados en la alta biodiversidad que albergan estas entidades tropicales y subtropicales europeas. En este sentido, el proyecto tiene un doble propósito: conservar esta gran biodiversidad para las generaciones futuras, y asegurar que la biodiversidad se convierta en una ventaja de valor añadido para el desarrollo sostenible.

Se contará con la participación de unas 50 personas procedentes de al menos 7 regiones y 7 países europeos: Alemania, Bélgica, España, Francia, Holanda, Portugal y Reino Unido, y de RUP y PTU europeas: Nueva Caledonia, Martinica, Guadalupe, Reunión, Antillas Holandesas, Azores, Madeira y Canarias, y otros países fuera de la UE como Cabo Verde y Barbados, en representación de entidades relacionadas con la biodiversidad subtropical, que abarcan la investigación, empresas, gobierno y sociedad civil e incluyen expertos y representantes de instituciones y organizaciones internacionales.

La conferencia se celebra cinco días después del Día Internacional de la Biodiversidad y que este año está dedicado precisamente a la diversidad biológica de las islas. Las RUP y los PTU europeos son conocidos puntos de alta biodiversidad terrestre, acuícola y marina.

Canarias pide que las RUP sean referente al investigar sobre biodiversidad en la UE

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El director de la Agencia Canaria de Investigación, Innovación y Sociedad de la Información, Juan Ruiz Alzola, ha reclamado que las regiones ultraperiféricas (RUP) sean tenidas como referentes en el desarrollo de investigaciones sobre biodiversidad en el marco de la Unión Europea.

Ya que dichas regiones son los territorios que contienen más biodiversidad de la Unión, y "lo lógico es que las políticas se hagan con el conocimiento y la aportación de los países que tienen más biodiversidad, cuya riqueza supone también una oportunidad para Europa", ha sostenido Ruiz Alzola.

El director de la Agencia Canaria de Investigación, Innovación y Sociedad de la Información ha lanzado este mensaje en la inauguración en Gran Canaria de la primera conferencia organizada por el proyecto NetBiome-CSA, financiado por el Séptimo Programa Marco de Investigación de la Unión Europea, del periodo 2007-2013.

Un programa que tiene por objetivo el fortalecimiento de la cooperación europea en investigación para la gestión sostenible de la biodiversidad tropical y subtropical y el crecimiento inteligente en las regiones ultraperiféricas y los países y territorios de ultramar, según se explica en un comunicado de sus organizadores.

En él se expone que Ruiz Alzola ha subrayado que "cuando se habla de investigación, y más desarrollo en economía azul y en biodiversidad, se trata de desarrollo económico y social".

Y ha recalcado que ese mensaje se enlaza con la estrategia de especialización inteligente de Canarias orientada a 2020, en la que se ha identificado, entre otros ámbitos de actuación, la economía en el mar y la biodiversidad, que se debaten precisamente en la conferencia internacional inaugurada este martes.

Conferencia que, con sede en las instalaciones de la Plataforma Oceánica de Canarias, congrega durante cinco días a medio centenar de personas procedentes de siete países europeos (Alemania, Bélgica, España, Francia, Holanda, Portugal y Reino Unido), y de otros países ajenos a la Unión.

Analizar los retos más urgentes para la conservación y gestión de la biodiversidad en las RUP y en los territorios de ultramar y crear grupos de trabajo multidisciplinares para ahondar en la definición de esos retos son algunas de las cuestiones a abordar en la reunión, se detalla.



(Foto: Acfi press)

AMPLIAR

Inauguración de la conferencia internacional para impulsar el desarrollo sostenible en las Regiones Ultraperiféricas y los Países y Territorios de Ultramar de la UE.

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