

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)

PRESS RELEASE:

“The NetBiome-CSA project held its first International Conference in Gran Canaria on the 27th of May 2014”

Gran Canaria, 4th of June 2014.



The International Conference *“Boosting sustainable development from high biodiversity: Prospects for green and blue growth in ORs and OCTs”* was hosted by the Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands (PLOCAN) last Tuesday 27th of May 2014, as part of the international meetings and events that have been planned within the context of the NetBiome-CSA project.

The conference has accomplished all its objectives, providing important results that will be essential for the development of the next phases of the project. In this sense, it 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 Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), as well as to green and blue development derived from the high biodiversity asset of the European overseas.

The main outputs of the conference included:

1. 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;
2. Selection of the 4 most pressing challenges to biodiversity conservation and management in support of sustainable development, to be addressed in 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;

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

More than 40 participants attended the conference from different parts of the world – 9 from ORs and OCTs (Montserrat, New Caledonia, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Reunion, the Caribbean Netherlands, Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands), 6 from mainland EU (Portugal, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, United Kingdom) and 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)

Based on the International Conference outputs, the NetBiome-CSA consortium organised on the 28th of May its first Thematic Workshop “*Addressing the challenges to biodiversity management in support of sustainable development in ORs and OCTs*”, followed by the project’s first exchange with the Advisory Board and the 2nd General Assembly (28th May – 30th May).

The next steps of the NetBiome-CSA project will focus at addressing 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.

For more detailed information about the project, please visit www.netbiome.eu.