

**Question for written answer E-001972/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Protecting mangroves

Overseas France is home to around 90 000 ha of mangrove forest, located mainly in French Guiana, New Caledonia and the French West Indies. These marine forests grow in intertidal zones in the low-lying coastal areas of tropical regions and in certain estuaries.

From an environmental perspective, mangroves are useful in a number of ways:

- at the local level, they protect coasts from erosion and from cyclones, they filter out pesticides and heavy metals, they supply local populations with wood and they support small-scale fishing since they are breeding grounds for numerous types of fish and shellfish;
- at the global level, they store five to ten times more carbon than tropical forests.

France protects its mangroves, unlike most countries, which either urbanise mangrove areas or convert them into large-scale rice paddies and shrimp farms, destroying 100 000 ha of mangrove around the world each year. The global mangrove forest area has halved over the past 40 years.

Overseas France may well become the last place on Earth where this ecosystem survives.

1. Will the Commission support France in its efforts to protect mangroves?
2. Will it offer financial support, within the context of its carbon-offset projects, for example?

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