

STATEMENT OF CONCLUSIONS

INTERREG MONITORING COMMITTEE

3rd December 2025

INTERREG VI INDIAN OCEAN PROGRAM
PROGRAM CCI 2021TC16FFOR004 (2021-2027)

Table of contents

1. Interreg Monitoring Committee Decisions

2. Annexes :

- Annex 1 - Speech by Ms SIGISMEAU, Vice-President of the Departmental Council of Reunion Island
- Annex 2 - Speech by Ms COUTY, Diplomatic Adviser to the Prefect of Reunion Island
- Annex 3 - Speech by Mr BISSOONDOYAL, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius
- Annex 4 - Speech by Mr Mario NGWENYA, Director of Cooperation between Mozambique and the European Union
- Annex 5 - Speech by Mr AGRIPPINE, Executive at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora of Seychelles
- Annex 6 - Speech by Ms Hasina RAFAMANTANANTSOA, Acting Director of Promotion of the Partnership for Development at the Malagasy Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Annex 7 - Speech by Mr LECLERC, Geographical Rapporteur at DG REGIO, European Commission
- Annex 8 - Speech by Mr BERTILE, Elected Representative for Regional Co-development, Fisheries and External Relations - Chair of the meeting
- Annex 9 - Monitoring Committee and cooperation project presentation materials

1. Decisions of the Interreg VI Monitoring Committee 2021-2027

1.1 Implementation of the Interreg VI program

The Committee takes note of the progress made on the Interreg VI program.

1.2 Modifications of the Interreg VI program

The Committee approves the amendments to the Interreg VI OI programme, namely the accession of South Africa to the programme and the following two minor amendments relating to the complementarity of the ERDF and Interreg and the NDICI:

- a) classification of joint ERDF-NDICI operations as operations of strategic importance; and
- b) the ERDF-NDICI Coordination Committee to meet twice a year.

1.3 Update on communication activities carried out by the managing authority

The Committee takes note of the communication activities carried out on the Interreg VI program.

1.4 Update on actions taken by the Managing Authority to strengthen governance and coordination

The Committee takes note of the actions taken by the Managing Authority to promote and strengthen governance.

1.5 Update on progress in coordinating ERDF-Interreg and NDICI funds

The Committee notes the progress made by the Managing Authority and all its partners in coordinating the ERDF-Interreg and NDICI funds.



**Annex 1 - Speech by Ms SIGISMEAU, Vice-President of the
Departmental Council of Reunion Island**

Regional Councillor, delegate for regional co-development, fisheries and external relations representing the President of the Region,
Regional Councillor delegate for cultural and sporting cooperation,
Diplomatic Adviser to the Prefect of Réunion,
Representative of the European Commission,
Ladies and Gentlemen, focal points of the INTERREG Indian Ocean programme,
Ladies and Gentlemen in your respective roles and capacities

First of all, I would like to apologise on behalf of the President of the Departmental Council, Mr Cyrille MELCHIOR, who, due to other commitments, is unable to be with us this afternoon. He has asked me to represent him, which I am happy to do.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I am participating today in this INTERREG VI Monitoring Committee meeting, an essential event for jointly assessing the progress of our regional cooperation and planning our actions for the future.

As 2025 draws to a close, the calendar in this area is particularly full, as our meeting follows the Indian Ocean Regional Cooperation Conference held on 28 and 29 November, which reaffirmed the importance of unity and solidarity between our territories.

The discussions and commitments made during this event remind us that the Indian Ocean is not just a geographical area, but also a space of shared destinies and ambitions.

With this in mind, the INTERREG programme, with its integrated, partnership-based approach and co-financing, is a key tool for regional integration in Réunion.

To illustrate my point, I will focus on two themes: youth and culture, which are major priorities of our departmental policies.

Firstly, youth is an issue that deserves our full attention.

With more than 60% of its population under the age of 30, the Indian Ocean has tremendous potential for dynamism and innovation. But this potential will only be fully realised if we are able to offer our young people the opportunities and support, they need to flourish and integrate into working life.

In this regard, the International Solidarity Volunteering (VSI) programme is a very concrete example of the measures co-financed by INTERREG that have a positive impact on their beneficiaries.

VSI missions enable our young people to get involved in meaningful projects, develop skills and forge lasting links between our territories.

Armed with these experiences, these young people are then able to integrate more easily into working life.

Since 2021, in conjunction with France Volontaires, the volunteers' employer, the Department of Réunion has provided national funding for 63 VSI missions.

Currently, around fifteen of them are working with various Alliances Françaises or associations supporting the French-speaking world.

These young people are based in Mauritius, Madagascar, the Seychelles, the Union of the Comoros, Kenya, Tanzania and India.

I now come to the second theme of our community, namely culture.

I would like to remind you that the Department of Réunion, through the Indian Ocean Historical Image Library, has carried out two operations co-financed by INTERREG V Indian Ocean between 2018 and 2023:

- Networking the iconographic heritage of the Indian Ocean (2018-2020)
- Appropriation of the iconographic heritage of the Indian Ocean by the populations (2021-2023).

These two operations were successful, with completion rates of 91.55% and 90.87% respectively.

They contributed to lasting cooperation between heritage institutions in the Indian Ocean and to the transmission of iconographic heritage to the population.

This networking was structured around several areas, from the collection and promotion of Indian Ocean heritage to the strengthening of skills and the provision of digitisation and document processing tools.

Naturally, this Indian Ocean cooperation is a long-term project. Other projects and dialogues remain to be developed, or even co-developed.

Discussions within the partner network have given rise to new issues and challenges, which have been brought together in a new project entitled Iconographic Heritage of the Indian Ocean Region: Collect, Train, Promote. It has been submitted to the INTERREG VI OP for review.

We are counting on the renewal of European support.

I believe it is essential to strengthen the momentum that has been building for more than 10 years. The Iconothèque's commitment to iconographic heritage is now well known and recognised. We must continue this work, which involves conservation, promotion and transmission.

In conclusion, allow me to express our institution's gratitude to the European Union and to the Réunion Region, the managing authority for the INTERREG programme.

We are convinced that the support provided by these European funds for regional cooperation will promote the construction of an Indian Ocean that is an area of peace, shared prosperity and cultural influence, where every young person can find their place and flourish as a true citizen of Indian Oceanic.

Thank you for your attention.



**Annex 2 - Speech by Ms COUTY, Diplomatic Adviser to the
Prefect of Reunion Island**

Regional Councillor, dear Wilfrid,
Deputy Chair of the Department,
Representative of the European Commission,
Interreg programme focal points,

On behalf of the Prefect and the State, thank you, and I would particularly like to thank the Réunion Region, the managing authority for the Interreg programme, for organising this meeting.

This is a first for me, as I have not been in office for very long, but I have already been able to appreciate the extent to which the region plays a driving role in the management of this Interreg tool, and also how valuable this tool is for the integration of Réunion into its regional environment. I imagine that all the teams involved are here today. Congratulations, you have excellent expertise, as demonstrated by the visits that have been organised to various locations, whether at the port or the university hospital. I understand that there is also coordination with the Mozambique Channel programme and that you are allowing each other to monitor your work; I think that is entirely satisfactory.

Returning to the Interreg tool, we are aware of its influence, and I, like the Region, welcome South Africa's desire to join the Interreg programme. This demonstrates its appeal and will be an additional tool for everyone to benefit from; we can only welcome this. I am also delighted to be here because it gives me the opportunity to meet the programme's focal points, which I am very happy about, and I would also like to welcome the Commission. I understand that unfortunately you are leaving us (Pierre-Emmanuel Leclerc), but I am told that your work for Interreg has been useful and appreciated. What interests me particularly is the next Interreg programme, with slightly different terms and conditions and indicators designed to measure impact, and I am interested to know how you see this from the Region's perspective.

Thank you again for the invitation.



**Annex 3 - Speech by Mr BISSOONDOYAL, Secretary for
Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional
Integration and International Trade of Mauritius**

Mr. Wilfrid Bertile, the Regional Councillor, Delegate for Regional Co-development, Fisheries, and External Relations, representing the President of the Region,
Madame Sigismeau, Vice-President of the Department,
Ms. Couty, Diplomatic Adviser to the Prefect of La Réunion,
Mr. Leclerc, Representative of the European Commission,
Gentlemen the focal points of the Interreg programme,
Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the Steering Committee in your titles, ranks, and qualities,

I am very happy to be among you this afternoon for this plenary session of the Interreg VI Steering Committee.

First of all, allow me to thank the Regional Council of La Réunion for the warm welcome and hospitality that has been extended to us since our arrival here. For my part, I am delighted to participate in this Steering Committee of the Interreg VI programme, in Saint-Denis, both for professional and personal reasons. Regional cooperation is a key focus of the government policy of my country, Mauritius. Given the geographical proximity and the privileged relations between Mauritius and La Réunion, we share both the advantages and the challenges of our insularity. Our economic development and future inevitably depend on strengthening regional cooperation. The Interreg programme has, for many years, provided us with the opportunity to strengthen this collaboration.

The recent visit of President Emmanuel Macron to Mauritius on November 20-21, 2025, demonstrates the strengthening of Franco-Mauritian ties to address the economic, security, and strategic challenges of the region. Several areas of cooperation were discussed during this visit, notably maritime security, which concerns us all, biodiversity preservation, Francophonie, education, water supply, food security, the future of youth, and, of course, artificial intelligence.

The INTERREG programme marks a new step in cooperation, complementing our bilateral relations and those existing within the Indian Ocean Commission. In addition, the Mauritius-Reunion Joint Commission is regularly held to address the challenges faced by our two islands. Since 2011, following the bilateral agreement on cooperation between Mauritius and La Réunion, we have strengthened our ties. The opening of a regional office in Ebene, now a decade ago, has facilitated this collaboration. I commend the appointment of Mr. Romuald Robert, head of the Reunion Region office in Mauritius, who will receive our full support.

On our side, following the visit of the French President, we are working to fulfil the commitment made in 2011 to open a Consulate General in Saint-Denis.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this meeting allows us to take stock of the progress of the Interreg VI programme and the information relating to the Interreg-NDICI framework. I commend the progress of the Interreg VI programme and the contribution of the European Union, a historic partner of our countries. We are pleased with the decision of South Africa to join the Interreg programme. I have been informed that to date, 63 projects have been programmed under Interreg VI, which represents 48% of the envelope. Mauritian partners are involved in 46 of these projects, demonstrating Mauritius' interest in the programme. With future calls for expressions of interest, it is expected that this number will increase to the benefit of our region.

I would like to highlight the excellent relations with the services of the Reunion Region and the regularity of the information provided within the framework of this programme. We are thus better informed and involved in the implementation of the Interreg programme. This facilitates better ownership of the programme as a third country. Thanks to regular exchanges with Ms. About, we are timely informed of the calls for expressions of interest that we help disseminate to Mauritian entities wishing to collaborate with Reunion project leaders.

As a reminder, the national workshop organized in March 2025 contributed to raising the visibility of the Interreg VI programme. This workshop allowed Mauritian and Rodrigues entities to be informed about the co-financed actions under Interreg VI. This workshop also

facilitated exchanges on the cooperation perspectives under this programme, in coordination with the work of the bilateral Joint Commission.

As for the coordination between NDICI and Interreg VI, which allows for better pooling of European Union funds, I am pleased to inform you that following the call for projects launched on August 28 last, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Center of Mauritius has expressed the desire to submit a project for community disaster volunteer training, under the disaster risk management component. We will follow up with the services of the Reunion Region to identify a Reunion project leader in order to make this project a reality.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I commend the concrete results of the Interreg VI programme, whose achievements are tangible.

The programme has given new momentum to collaboration between our islands. To conclude, I wish the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme every success and thank you for your attention.



**Annex 4 - Speech by Mr Mario NGWENYA, Director of
Cooperation between Mozambique and the European
Union**

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for inviting Mozambique to participate in this important Steering Committee of the Interreg VI Operational Programme for the Indian Ocean.

I would also like to express our gratitude for the excellent hospitality we have received since our arrival in this beautiful city of Saint-Denis, on the island of La Réunion, which is classified as a World Heritage site.

Since this is the first meeting of the committee since the violent cyclone that severely impacted the islands of Mayotte and La Réunion, I would like to express, on behalf of the people and government of the Republic of Mozambique, our solidarity with the people and governments of Mayotte and La Réunion.

As part of this programme, my country benefits from 12 projects covering different sectors such as agriculture, the environment, biodiversity, ports, and scientific research, to name just a few examples.

In this context, I would like to reaffirm the importance of this Steering Committee session as a forum for dialogue aimed at improving the effectiveness of initiatives for the benefit of our communities, by adopting an approach that prioritizes the realities of each country.

We are convinced that our regional integration within the framework of South-South cooperation can, through the pooling of efforts and resources and the development of local markets, stimulate production, trade, and academia.

We are convinced that our regional integration within the framework of South-South cooperation can, through the pooling of efforts and resources and the development of local markets, stimulate production, trade, and academia.

The potential of blue and green economies, the possibility of opening ports and establishing air links are also important factors that contribute to strong regional integration for the Indian Ocean coastal countries.

We are aware that the existing potential in the Indian Ocean region presents common challenges, such as adaptation to climate change, among others. We are also aware that the Interreg VI programme is a good opportunity for the Indian Ocean region to build an industrial, tourism, and commercial hub.

We reaffirm our commitment to implementing this programme with the support of the European Union and its Member States within the framework of multilateral cooperation.

In conclusion, I would like to share with this commission the remarks made by the Vice-President of the European Parliament, His Excellency Younous Omarjee, during a meeting he held last week with the President of the Republic of Mozambique in Luanda, on the sidelines of the 7th African Union-European Union Summit. I quote: "The INTERREG VI programme, as a programme that can contribute to strengthening cooperation between the Indian Ocean countries through the development of agriculture."

Thank you very much for your attention.



**Annex 5 - Speech by Mr AGRIPPINE, Executive at the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora of Seychelles**

Mr. Wilfrid Bertile, the Regional Councillor, Delegate for Regional Co-development, Fisheries, and External Relations, representing the President of the Region,
Madame Sigismeau, Vice-President of the Department,
Ms. Couty, Diplomatic Adviser to the Prefect of La Réunion,
Mr. Leclerc, Representative of the European Commission,
Gentlemen the focal points of the Interreg programme,
Ladies and Gentlemen, members of the Steering Committee in your ranks and qualities,

It is my honour to represent the voice of Seychelles in this august assembly and on this beautiful island, which is so dear to all Seychellois for having contributed to the settlement of our archipelago and to the formation of our rich Creole cultural heritage. La Réunion, the Seychelles says thank you to you!

At the outset of my intervention, I would first like to thank the people of La Réunion for the warm welcome I have received since my arrival. I extend my thanks to the President of the Region for her invitation, which made my visit possible, and to her entire technical team for the excellent work in preparing and organizing this session of the Interreg Indian Ocean Steering Committee.

My thanks also go to the European Union for its commitment to co-development, the guiding principle of the Interreg programme, a rich tool that enables international cooperation.

Seychelles is one of the three main beneficiary countries of the Interreg Indian Ocean programme and can testify to its role as a catalyst and development lever, as its funding complements the efforts made by our national authorities, local authorities, and other international organizations.

International cooperation and co-development are at the heart of the development formula adopted by Seychelles because they allow us to face the challenges that stand in our way to achieve our great ambitions. These challenges are numerous, ranging from the small size of our population and territory to the fight against climate change and the development of the blue economy.

Projects funded by the Interreg Indian Ocean funds help us bring our ambitions to life. The enormous progress made by Seychelles in the areas of human development, good governance, democracy, and environmental protection is, in part, thanks to the technical and financial support of our foreign partners, including La Réunion and the European Union.

We intend to become more involved in the Interreg programme. I thank you for your attention.



**Annex 6 - Speech by Ms Hasina RAFAMANTANANTSOA,
Acting Director of Promotion of the Partnership for
Development at the Malagasy Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Mr. Regional Councillor,
Madam Vice-President of the Department,
Mr. Representative of the European Commission,
Gentlemen the focal points of the Interreg programme,

I am speaking today as the Focal Point (PF) of Interreg Madagascar, replacing the Secretary-General who is unfortunately unavailable due to a scheduling conflict. It is a great honour for me to take on this crucial responsibility, which involves facilitating the implementation of Interreg initiatives on our territory. Allow me to address the political context in Madagascar.

Since last October, Madagascar has been going through a period marked by a complex political crisis; however, I would like to reaffirm with the utmost certainty that this situation, although delicate, does not in any way undermine institutional stability, which is essential for the smooth running of our projects. Indeed, despite these political upheavals, our institutions remain fully functional, and the legal and administrative framework guaranteeing the respect of international commitments remains intact. The Malagasy government, aware of the importance of the Interreg programmes, reaffirms its full commitment to provide the necessary support.

This notably involves facilitating administrative procedures, ensuring the smooth flow of collaboration between local and national actors, and guaranteeing the continuity of future funding. The political will is clear: to strengthen the actions taken to promote regional integration, environmental protection, and inclusive socio-economic development. Our country is still fully capable of continuing and even accelerating the implementation of ongoing projects. We are convinced that through concerted and rigorous work, Madagascar will be able to fully capitalize on the opportunities offered by Interreg, thereby contributing to sustainable, balanced development that benefits all stakeholders.

In conclusion, I would like to thank each of you for your trust, support, and continued collaboration. Thank you for facilitating our travel so that we could attend this meeting, as well as for the warm welcome you have extended to us. Ladies and Gentlemen, together we can build a prosperous and harmonious future for each of the countries participating in the Interreg programme. Rest assured that, on our side, we will do everything in our power to ensure the success of this exemplary initiative.

Thank you.



**Annex 7 - Speech by Mr LECLERC, Geographical
Rapporteur at DG REGIO, European Commission**

Mr. Vice President of the Regional Council, delegate for regional co-development, fisheries, and external relations, representing the President of the Region,

Madam Vice President of the Department of Réunion,

Madam Diplomatic Advisor to the Prefect of Réunion

Dear Interreg program focal points,

First of all, I would like to thank the Regional Council of Réunion for its warm welcome, for organizing these very intense working days, the project visits, and for the excellent documents that were distributed prior to these meetings.

Since this is my last monitoring committee meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to give my personal assessment of this program since I took charge of it at the end of 2017.

During this period, my assessment is that the Interreg Indian Ocean program has made undeniable progress based on sound management. However, certain specific features call for changes made necessary by the new financial and legal context.

*

I/ REAL PROGRESS BASED ON SOLID MANAGEMENT

A/ SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

- The transfer of €5 million in NDICI funds is effective. Two years of intense work were necessary to secure the conditions for using this envelope. You are making excellent progress, as the call for projects has been launched. Congratulations.
- Partnership agreements secured with Sri Lanka and South Africa. As far as South Africa is concerned, it would not have been possible to secure this agreement without the strong and constant commitment of all stakeholders: the Regional Council, the Member State, and the European Union. It is the result of collective effort and, as far as I am concerned, a pleasant surprise. With this agreement, the Indian Ocean program will take on a new dimension.
- Strengthening ties with European Union delegations, particularly through regional offices and the contacts they maintain with program focal points.

B/ SOLID AND REASSURING MANAGEMENT

- The transfer of NDICI funds to the program would not have been possible if the Commission had not had confidence in your ability to manage the funds.
- Your management and control system is particularly effective and provides reassurance regarding the regularity of expenditures.
- Furthermore, no audit issues or automatic decommitment, which requires funds to be returned to the EU if they are not spent within three years, have disrupted the implementation of the program. According to the available data, you will avoid this this year and you will avoid it next year.
- The closure process for the 2014-2020 programming period is proceeding normally. You have submitted the draft final report to the monitoring committee and we have made a number of comments. All closure documents must be officially sent to the Commission by February 15, 2026 at the latest.

- I would add to this the highly responsive and open communication with the Interreg division, which is a hallmark of good management.

*

II/ THE INTERREG “INDIAN OCEAN” PROGRAMME, HOWEVER, HAS CERTAIN FEATURES THAT THE NEW LEGAL AND FINANCIAL CONTEXT SHOULD LEAD TO CHANGES.

A/ WELL-ESTABLISHED SPECIFIC FEATURES COEXIST WITH WEAKNESSES MORE COMMONLY SHARED WITH OTHER INTERREG PROGRAMS

a) Persistent characteristics:

While preparing for this monitoring committee meeting, I came across the speech given in this very room by the Director for Cooperation at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional Policy in 2016, almost 10 years ago. Those who were around at the time may remember it. Reading this document, I realized that the observations and requests made by the European Commission official could, with a few exceptions, still be made today.

- With regard to partnership: in 2016, the Commission was already emphasizing the concept of international partnership, “which forms the basis of all Interreg programs.” It noted in particular that the selection of operations should be “made in consultation with all partners.” However, until this year, the program's selection committee continued to be composed solely of representatives from Mayotte and Réunion.
- The Commission also reiterated the importance it attaches to coordination with the European Development Fund. Coordination will be achieved, said the Commission, “through the regional consultation committee, which brings together the managers of the ERDF and the EDF.” It called for this committee to be “more ambitious.” Unfortunately, this committee has gradually fallen into lethargy and has met little or not at all in recent years.

b) The persistence of weaknesses commonly shared with other INTERREG programs:

- With regard to projects, there is a clear focus on a small number of public sector beneficiaries who are familiar with the program and its procedures. In contrast, cooperation between companies appears to be relatively low-key.
- Another observation, related to the previous one, is the dominance of the innovation/research theme, which accounts for more than 35% of the program's budget and could become even more important in the near future.
- Finally, and this is not unrelated to the previous findings, it is very difficult to find information that would capture the program's impact on a specific theme or target audience.

B/ IF THESE CHARACTERISTICS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PERSIST, THE NEW MANAGEMENT METHODS SHOULD IMPOSE CHANGES IN THE LONG TERM.

a) New financial arrangements

- The transfer of NDICI funds to the program will necessarily lead to a strengthening of the partnership with third countries, both in terms of the composition of the project selection committee and the reactivation of the NDICI-ERDF consultation committee.

- It is indeed difficult to imagine that the use of NDICI funds in third countries participating in the program would be left solely to the discretion of Mayotte and Réunion. A tentative opening was made this year, with the selection committee being opened up to the COI and IORA. This effort should be continued by accepting a wider opening.
 - As regards the NDICI-ERDF coordination committee, its reactivation is already scheduled, as we learned yesterday during the technical preparatory meeting for this monitoring committee.
- b) New programming arrangements :
- On July 16, the Commission approved a set of texts concerning the new multiannual financial framework. These documents include a new approach to monitoring program performance. The idea is simple: payments will no longer be made on the basis of invoices but on the basis of the achievement of physical indicators.
 - This is a fundamental change in approach. We began discussing this issue at last year's monitoring committee meeting, and the managing authority was receptive to our arguments and seems ready to move towards a results-oriented culture.

*

As I mentioned at the beginning of my speech, I am stepping down from my position at the end of this month. As I hand over the reins to my colleague here today, I would like to express my gratitude for the journey we have taken together over the past few years.

I have no concerns about the ability of the Regional Council of Réunion to meet all the challenges posed by the management of external policy funds, and I am certain that everything will be done to adapt to the European Union's change of approach for future programming.

The managing authority, together with its branches and focal points, has everything it needs to continue making this program the essential tool for cooperation between the outermost regions and their neighbours in the Indian Ocean.

I wish you all every success in your future adventures with INTERREG and thank you for your attention.



**Annex 8 - Speech by Mr BERTILE, Elected Representative
for Regional Co-development, Fisheries and External
Relations - Chair of the meeting**

As I have the floor, I will keep it for a moment. A lot has been said, so I will focus on three points.

The first point is that the Interreg programme, as highlighted by Mr. Leclerc, is a fantastic tool in the service of regional co-development, which the Managing Authority, the Regional Council of La Réunion, is trying to pilot in the best possible way. It is a relevant tool to jointly address the major challenges our region is facing, to the benefit of the populations of our countries. Following its operational launch at the end of 2023, the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme is experiencing dynamic progress, since, as was reminded earlier, 63 cooperation operations have been scheduled, representing almost 50% of the available ERDF funding. We owe this good result to the support and instruction provided by the services of the Managing Authority, as well as to the involvement of our partners, notably our focal points. In terms of certification, the decommitment threshold, set at €3.8 million by the end of 2025, has already been exceeded, as the amounts certified by the Managing Authority surpass €5 million. We can therefore only rejoice at this positive development.

The second point is that the Interreg programme is also a tool for political dialogue, beyond its financial and functional aspects. This dialogue tool indeed contributes to stability and peace in our region. The purpose of Steering Committees like the one we are attending today is to meet every year to ensure the proper execution of the programme. But it is also, and most importantly, a space for political and operational dialogue that allows us to get to know each other better. These exchanges are all the more important given that the international context is upheaved with the intensification of conflicts, instability in different regions, the rising tensions among various powers, and humanitarian crises... Therefore, we must ensure that our partnership remains alive and strong to successfully implement this programme together.

The third and final point is that we need to move towards strengthened governance and partnership. The Regional Council of La Réunion has made it a priority to strengthen our relationships of friendship and partnership in our region. All our efforts have been aimed at reinforcing our governance by involving our focal points more closely and collaborating more with the European Union delegations. As an example, two national Interreg workshops were organized this year, first in Mauritius and then in Comoros. In both cases, as our colleague from Mauritius mentioned, an assessment of the Interreg projects was conducted by local cooperation partners, highlighting the deep integration and successful implementation of these projects, as well as their ownership by local actors. The tightening of links with our neighbours was also reflected in the accession of South Africa to the Interreg VI Indian Ocean programme. We are pleased to once again count this major emerging country as one of our partners. Beautiful prospects for cooperation are already taking shape, particularly in the cultural and sports sectors, with the signing of a bilateral agreement on December 20 (our colleague Patricia Profil will mention this shortly). I am also pleased to highlight the involvement of neighbouring islands in both bilateral and multilateral Interreg projects. Mauritius stands out with 46 projects, followed by Madagascar with 40 projects, Seychelles with 28 projects, and Comoros with 24 projects. Mozambique is also proving to be a dynamic partner with 13 projects registered. This is just the beginning, let's continue the fight. The programme is well underway, but there is still much to be done!

Closer to us, as it involves our fellow citizens, I would like to emphasize the collaboration established with the Department of Mayotte, which manages the Interreg VI Mozambique Channel programme on its side. In 2025, 7 Mayotte-Reunion coordination committees were held, allowing the exchange of best management practices and coordination for joint events. Mayotte's institutions are also involved in 11 cooperation projects on various themes such as sustainable tourism, agricultural research, and biodiversity conservation.

Finally, there is the happy outcome of the work coordinating ERDF-Interreg and NDICI (EU External Action Funds). We have finally succeeded in ensuring coordination. This year-end is marked by the launch of a joint NDICI-ERDF call for projects focusing on two key areas of co-development: sustainable food security and disaster risk prevention. The management of a new NDICI funding envelope (€5 million) by the local authority will allow us to involve our third-country partners more and to strengthen the impact of the projects on our populations and territories concerned.

I would like to sincerely thank, on behalf of the President of the Region, Mrs. Huguette BELLO, the services of the European Commission (both DG REGIO and DG INTPA, as well as the EU Delegations in the region), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Overseas Territories, and our regional administration for their involvement in the implementation of this new management process. We hope that the financial envelopes concerned will be increased in the future, as this represents a deepening of our regional integration.

Thank you for your attention.



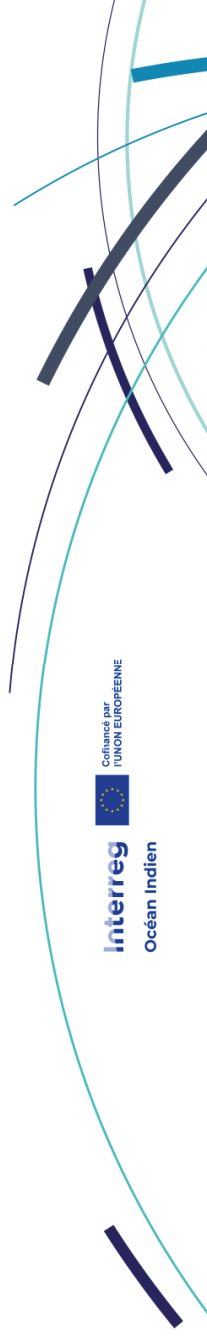
**ANNEX 9: Presentation Support for the Monitoring
Committee & Presentation Support for the Project Leader
EPLEFPA FORMA'TERRA**

INTERREG VI INDIAN OCEAN MONITORING COMMITTEE

-

Plenary session

3rd december 2025



Agenda

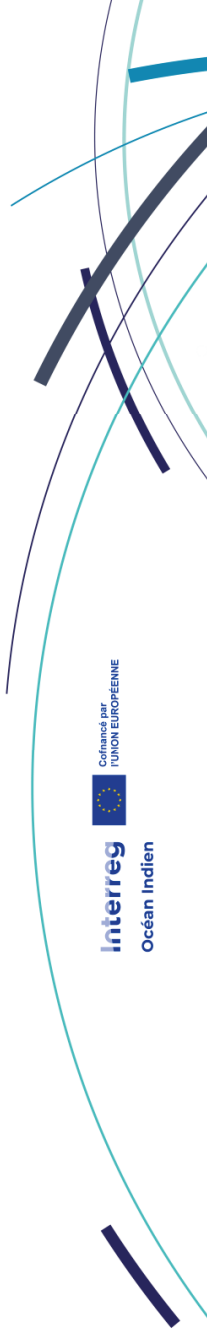
I. Implementation of the program

1. *Progress of the program*
2. *Proposed changes to the program*
3. *Communication and promotion activities*
4. *Governance reinforcement and cooperation*
5. *Animation and assistance to project leaders*

II. NDICI-ERDF coordination

Progress report on the management of a €5 million NDICI budget by the local authority

I – Implementation of the INTERREG VI program



1. Progress of the program

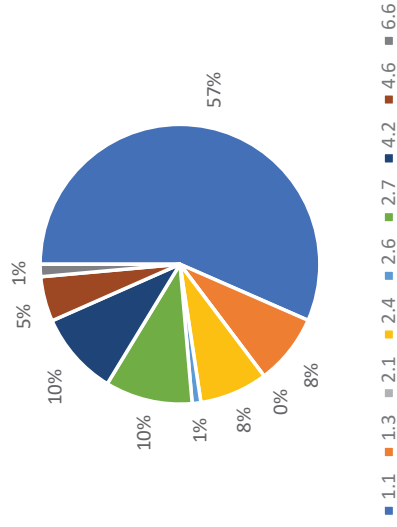
Programming :

63 operations selected for a total eligible cost of €37.16 million, including €30.15 million from the ERDF (48.44%).

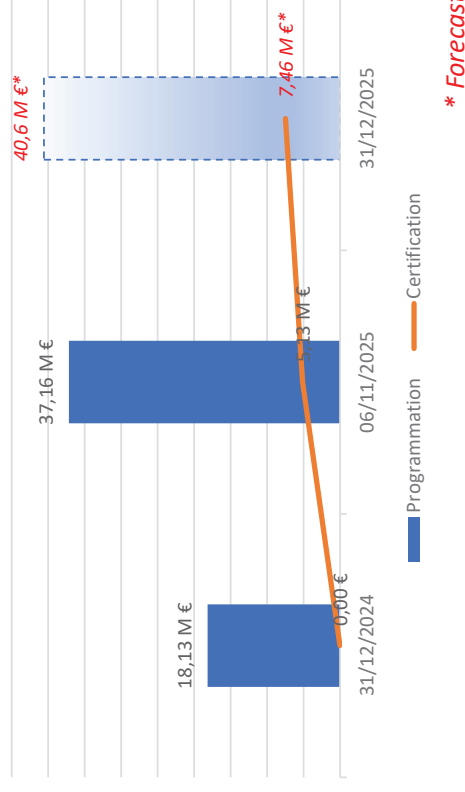
Certification :

As of 26/11/25, €5.46 million has been declared to the EC. The **Automatic decommitment** threshold has been reached (135% of the target). An additional forecast of €2 million by 17/12/25 (176% of the **Automatic decommitment target**)

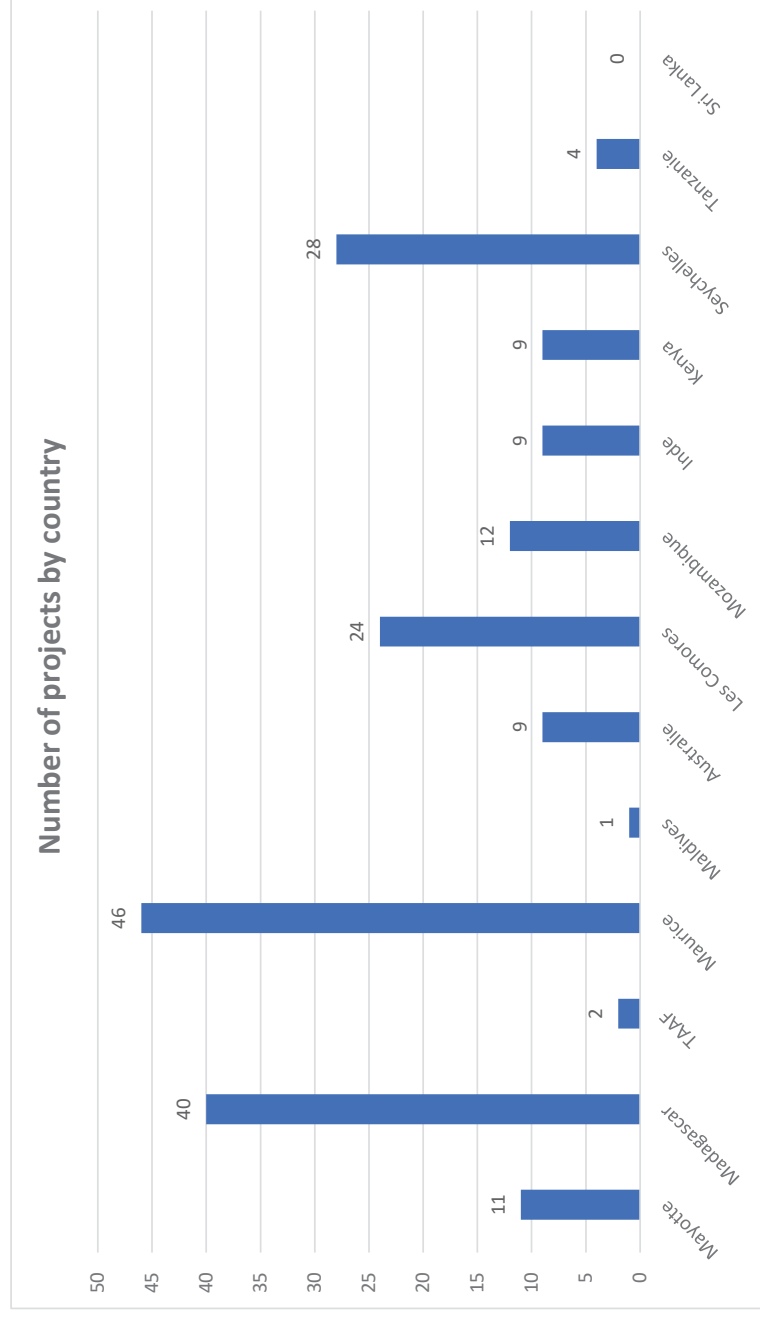
Amount program by SO



Programming and certification evolution



1. Progress of the program



Overview of the specific objectives progress

Specific objective	Number of programmed project	Montant maquette CT	Selected amount CT COPIL 06/11/2025	Declared amount 26/11/2025
1.1 Research	19	23 M €	21 M €	1,758 M €
1.3 Economic development	8	7,4 M €	3 M €	0,218 M €
2.1 Energetic transition	-	0,68 M €	-	-
2.4 Risk prevention	2	7,2 M €	2,9 M €	1,62 M €
2.6 Circular economy	2	0,68 M €	0, 37 M €	0,191 M €
2.7 Biodiversity preservation	6	6,8 M €	3,7 M €	0, 173 M €
4.2 Education and mobility	14	10,4 M €	3,59 M €	0,832 M €
4.6 Culture, Sport, Sustainable tourism	5	7,5 M €	1,93 M €	0,307 M €
6.6 Cooperation governance	7	2,3 M €	0, 54 M €	0 ,366 M €

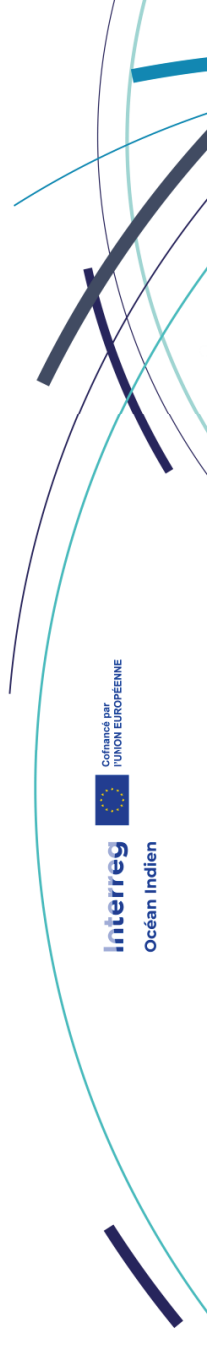
Elements issus de la réunion technique

Observations	Réponses de l'Autorité de gestion
<p>The European Commission questioned the reasons for the slow start of certain types of action (agricultural cooperation, cooperation between SMEs, etc.).</p> <p>The Commission also questioned the integration of young people who had benefited from mobility schemes (VIE, VSI, or ARR).</p> <p>The EC welcomes the progress made on SO 2.6 dedicated to the circular economy (newly introduced in Interreg VI). Two operations, led by new project promoters, have been programmed under this measure.</p>	<p>The managing authority explained that this is due to several factors, including the refocusing of the activities of Réunion operators (such as Armeflhor) on local activities, and the complexity of putting together European funding applications.</p> <p>Targeted promotional and communication initiatives are being and will continue to be implemented by the AGM to encourage projects in these areas.</p> <p>The Managing authority provided initial information and will be able to contact operators to obtain details on the initial results of these operations.</p>

2. Proposed changes to the program

NDICI-ERDF

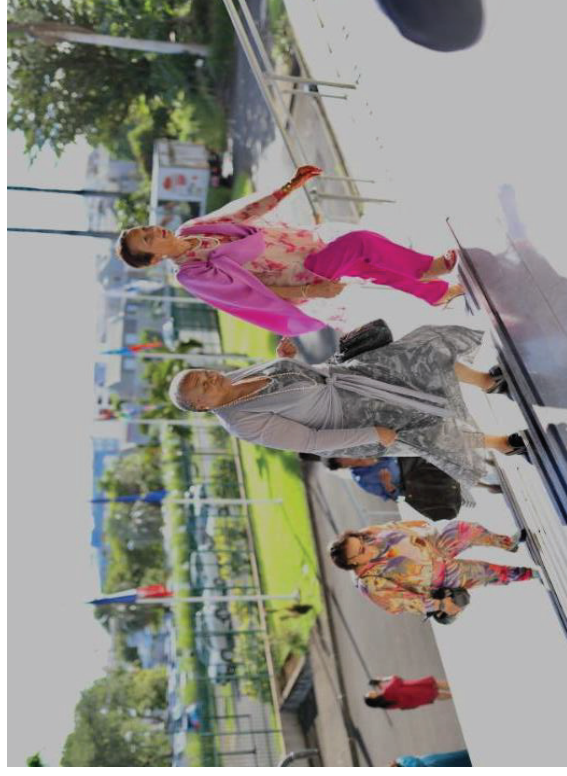
- Proposal to organize the coordination committee twice a year
- Operations of strategic importance: registration of NDICI/ERDF operations under this name instead of projects supported by ISO and OS 2.4



2. (following) Proposed changes to the program



On October 8, after more than ten years of withdrawal, South Africa agreed to participate in the INTERREG VI Indian Ocean program. It is therefore proposed that the members of the CSI approve this accession.



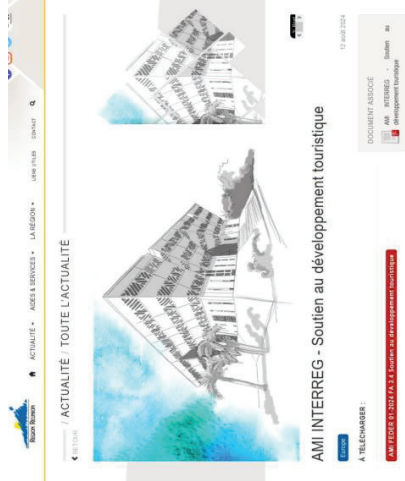
Elements issus de la réunion technique

Observations	Réponses de l'Autorité de gestion
The European Commission and third countries welcome South Africa's accession to the Interreg Indian Ocean program.	

3. Communication & promotion activities

Information on the Region's website and social media

Publications of calls for expressions of interest

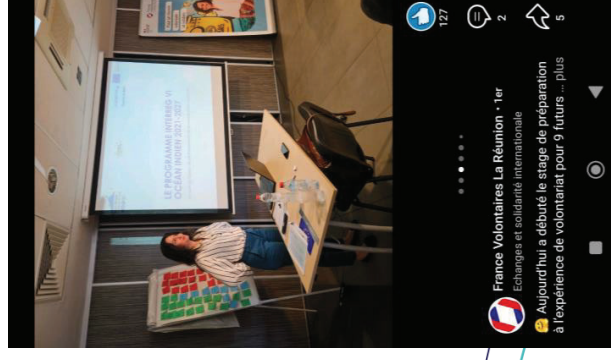
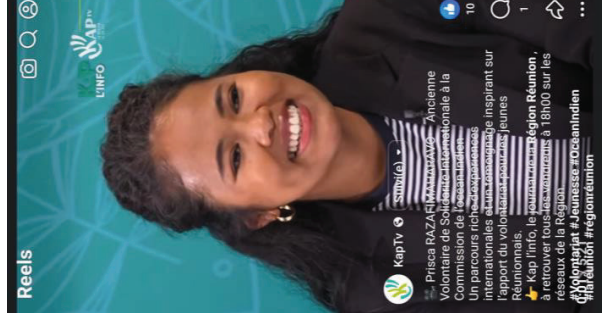


Actions initiated by the Managing Authority

- 2 awareness-raising sessions for volunteers (VSI/SCI)
- Distribution of videos presenting the INTERREG VI program (regional website, Kap Région)
- Distribution of information via regional branches in the Comoros, Madagascar, and Mauritius

Shortly

- A new television program, "La Région lé ek zot," with one episode dedicated to an Interreg project
- A map of Interreg projects can be viewed on the dedicated page



3. (suite) Communication & promotion activities

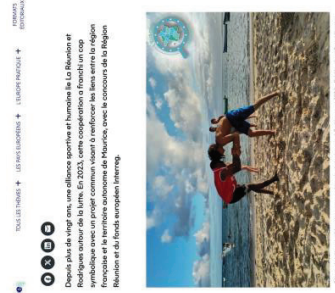
A program promoted in the local, regional and national levels

Online articles

The month to celebrate Europe



Wrestling sport on Toute l'Europe site



Promotion of the Interreg program and the TIMOI project on the networks of Ministry for Overseas Territories



Promotion of the program by :

- The partners : ANCT, Interact, French Embassy, European Delegation of Madagascar and Mauritius
- The events : Interreg Day, business fair and scientific conferences in the Comoros



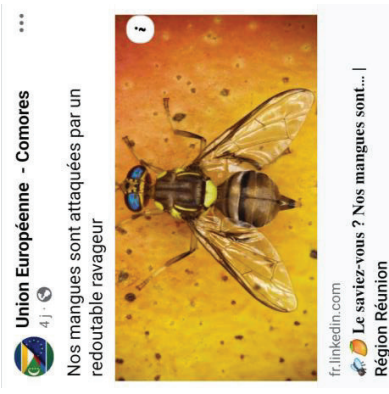
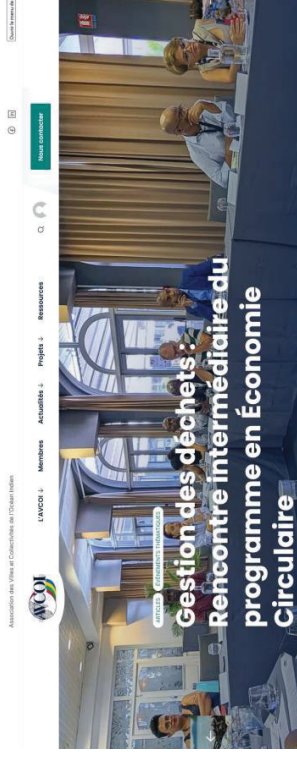
LA RÉGION & L'EUROPE

Donc le Grand océan Indien

- avec INTERREG VI 2021-2027

Région Paysan
www.regionpaysan.com

Publications on the websites and social media of project promoters and cooperation partners



Elements issus de la réunion technique

Observations	Réponses de l'Autorité de gestion
<p>The European Commission has raised questions about the redesign of the current Interreg page (progress, publication date).The Commission also reiterates the importance of measuring the impact of the communication activities carried out by the MA.</p>	<p>The Managing Authority has announced that this new page should be available on the Réunion Region website in the first quarter of 2026, and specifies that the current page already contains all the regulatory information and other useful documents for project leaders, partners, and the general public. The change will be visual (tab layout, revised graphics, etc.).</p> <p>The MA indicated that efforts will be made to measure the impact of these actions (number of views/clicks on Interreg publications, etc.).</p>

4. Governance reinforcement and cooperation

- **Strengthening Governance**

- 2025 : Workshops held in Mauritius and Comoros

Objective : Strengthen ties with partners in the region and ensure the long-term sustainability of partnerships



Group photo – workshop held in Mauritius in March 2025



Group photo – workshop held in Comoros in October 2025

Coming in 2026 :

Workshops to be held in
Seychelles and Madagascar

4. (following) Governance reinforcement and cooperation

- The aim is to highlight the involvement of Mauritian and Comorian cooperation partners in the implementation of Interreg projects.
- The aim is also to demonstrate the anchoring of the projects and their impact on the territories and populations of Mauritius and the Comoros.



In Comoros



In Mauritius



5. A stronger role for the Réunion Region's local offices in implementing the program

- **Contributing** to the formulation of opinions on cooperation aspects for the investigating services, which involves working closely with Interreg focal points, diplomatic posts (embassies and DUE) and cooperation partners
- **Supporting** the emergence of cooperation projects that can be co-financed by the Interreg program
- **Monitoring** the implementation of projects and even controlling them (at the request of the DGA Europe)
- **Supporting** project leaders and participating in the promotion of projects



Mission to the Comoros as part of the Epibio project, from April 14 to 17, 2025.



Meeting of Comorian students benefiting from the REUNION 2 program, April 4, 2025.

Elements issus de la réunion technique

Observations	Réponses de l'Autorité de gestion
<p>The European Commission, the deputy Interreg focal point for Mauritius, and the head of the Regional Office in the Comoros shared their positive feedback on the national workshops held in Mauritius and the Comoros in March and October 2025. These discussions provided an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the impact of Interreg projects implemented in partner territories and to foster new partnerships (third countries/Reunion Island).Translated with DeepL.com (free version)</p>	<p>The Managing authority indicates that the next workshops will take place in the Seychelles and then in Madagascar. There are also plans to organize a workshop in Mozambique before the end of the program.</p>

6. Mobilization of MA services to support project leaders

An animation of the program to boost the launch of the OP and ensure its proper implementation with a view to reaching the automatic decommitment thresholds.

- Since 2023 :
 - 247 projects supported, including 29 in 2025

Priorité 1	3 projects
Priorité 2	5 projects
Priorité 3	9 projects
ISO	12 projects



Objectives :

- 26 call for projects published

Promoting and presenting the program and its objectives
Guiding project leaders toward the appropriate mechanisms
Supporting the emergence of new co-development projects and strategic partnerships
Relying on local branches, particularly for cooperation partnerships
Offering thematic workshops and seminars

6. (following) Mobilization of MA services to support project leaders

Boosting certain measures by:

Presenting the Interreg VI OI intervention mechanism dedicated to economic cooperation at the Strategic Council for the Internationalization of Businesses (COSIE) (led and implemented by the Réunion Region) on March 28, 2025.

The establishment of workshops focused on culture and sport (in partnership with the Inter-Regional Conference of Multi-Stakeholder Networks – CIRMA) to build the skills of civil society actors in the context of cooperation project development.

*

Collective information sessions during seminars organized by project leaders in Réunion, presentations for diplomatic posts, such as the French Embassy in Mozambique.



Thematic workshop on sports/culture in 2025 at Moca

Presenting the Interreg VI
OI intervention
mechanism dedicated to 4
group workshops
organized in 2025 on the
themes of culture, sport,
and economic
development

➤ **Capacity building for the Managing Authority and partners**

Training plan for MA staff: state aid, etc.

Internal seminar on cross-cutting issues (auditing, regulation, etc.)

II - NDICI-INTERREG coordination

Indirect management, by the Managing Authority, of an NDICI envelope (€5 million) within the framework of the Interreg VI programme, which is itself governed by shared-management procedures



Announcement by DG Regio (Oct.2023) of a €15 million NDICI envelope (Sub-Saharan Africa MIP) allocated to the MAC and Indian Ocean Managing Authorities.

For the past two years, the services of the Managing Authority and the European Commission (DG REGIO, DG INTPA) have been fully mobilised, and several working meetings have been held in Réunion and in Brussels.

These efforts have led to:

- the amendment of the Interreg VI programme, adopted by the European Commission on 14 July 2025
- the signing of the NDICI contribution agreement on 7 August 2025
- the launch of the joint NDICI–ERDF call for projects on the theme of climate resilience on 28 August 2025 (open until 30 December 2025)



Elements issus de la réunion technique

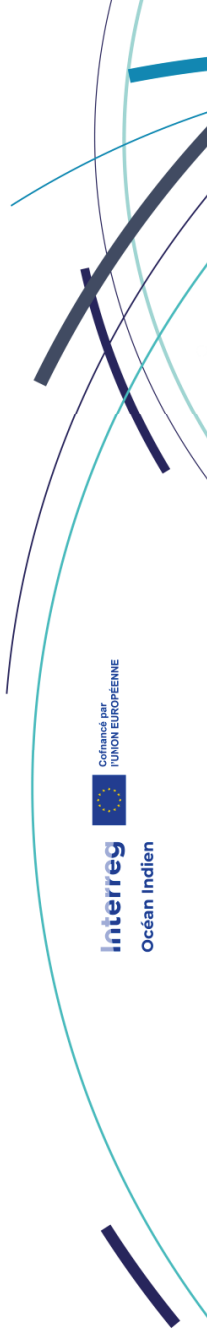
Observations	Réponses de l'Autorité de gestion
<p>The European Commission congratulates the Managing Authority and all stakeholders for all the work accomplished on the unprecedented management of NDICI funds under the INTERREG VI program.</p> <p>The EC adds that this ERDF/NDICI coordination represents the future of Interreg programs in the outermost regions.</p>	

Merci de votre attention !

***Following => Presentation of project – agricultural
cooperation***



Thank you for your attention



Informations about International cooperation – FORMA'TERRA

Southern Madagascar – Anosy and Androy regions

INTERREG VI call of interest 2023-2024 / INTERREG VI call of interest 2024 - 2025

The cross-border educational cooperation and vocational training program for institutions belonging to the REAP AAOI (Network of Professional Agricultural Institutions in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean) is co-financed by the European Union and the Regional council of Reunion.

Europe is committed to Réunion through the Interreg VI fund.



Cooperation program in southern Madagascar



Cactus For Life and FORMA'TERRA have a special partnership, thanks to their connection with director Adrien Peybale, a former graduate of FORMA'TERRA's BTS DARC program.

- > Project carried out within the 2 framework agreement signed by the President of the Regional council of Reunion with the Anosy and Androy Regions
- > Multi-year agricultural training program in partnership with CTAS, GRET, AVSF and CFL
- > Towards integration into the EU-funded reforestation project
- Phase 1: Building a partnership with Cactus For Life and identifying consortium members (CTAS, AVSF, CFL, and GRET) in 2023.
- Phase 2: Agricultural assessment with local stakeholders in Androy, involving FORMA'TERRA BTS DARC students + 2 teachers (2 weeks in 2024).
- Phase 3: Identification of training needs and skills development for stakeholders in two agricultural training courses: soil fertility and identification of pests (two FORMA'TERRA trainers over one week in Ambovombe in February 2025).
- Phase 4: Training for consortium technicians (CFL, CTAS, AVSF, and GRET) in Réunion in June 2025 (1 week).

1. Consolidation of partnerships in southern Madagascar following the signing of agreements by the President of the Regional council of Reunion in 2023

- **WORKSHOPS FOR CO-DEVELOPING TRAINING COURSES IN AGROECOLOGY AND WATER MANAGEMENT INSOUTHERN MADAGASCAR**
- **SIGNING OF FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH FORMA'TERRA AND STAKEHOLDERS IN THE AREA AND IDENTIFICATION OF TRAINING NEEDS**



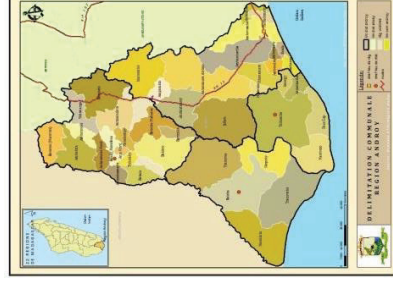
2. Diagnosis of the agrarian system and agricultural development in Androy (Madagascar)

- > Project carried out from November 18 to 29, 2024
- > Study that is part of the training program for future technicians in Réunion
- > 7 students studying for a BTS (advanced technician's certificate) DARC diploma + 2 agronomy teachers



- > A full article on this project is available on the DAAF Réunion website

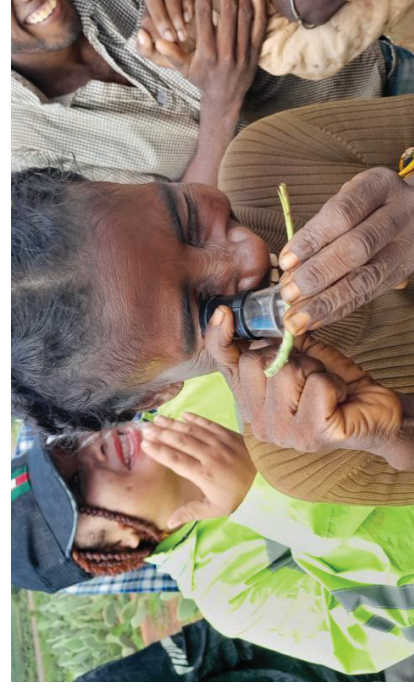
<https://daaf.reunion.agriculture.gouv.fr/le-lycee-agricole-de-saint-paul-au-pays-des-epines-dans-le-sud-malgache-a3758.html>



3. Training of technicians from the Sud Mada consortium in Androy



- Transfer of skills to field technicians: 3 themes: water management, soil fertility, and crop protection – February 2025



4. Training of technicians from the Sud Mada consortium in Réunion - reciprocity



- Eight technicians and supervisors from the consortium undergoing training in Réunion. Topics: integrated crop protection, fertility management, agroforestry, syntropic agriculture in arid environments – June 2025.

- Intercultural exchange on the occasion of the anniversary of Madagascar's independence with Danyel Waro at Kaz Kabar.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

The cross-border educational cooperation and vocational training program for institutions belonging to the REAP AAOI (Network of Professional Agricultural Institutions in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean) is co-financed by the European Union and the Regional council of Reunion.

Europe is committed to Réunion through the Interreg VI fund.

