

INFORMATION
LETTER
#2

August
2025

Interreg
Océan Indien

Cofinancé par
l'UNION EUROPÉENNE

REGION REUNION
www.regionreunion.com

#RégionRéunion

INTERREGVI

2021-2027

A EUROPEAN
PROGRAM
DEDICATED TO
COOPERATION
PROJECTS
IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN



SUM- MARY

TRAINING / EXCHANGES

- International Solidarity Volunteer Program 2024 (Regional Council of Reunion island)
- International Solidarity Volunteer Program 2024 (Territoire Ouest)
- International Solidarity Volunteer Program 2024 (Commune de La Possession)
- International Solidarity Volunteer Program 2024 (Department of Reunion island)
- Regional Educational and Professional Cooperation Program of the Network of Professional Agricultural Institutions (REAP AAOI)
- Improving the Quality of French Language Education in Kenya (PAMEFK-2)
- Reunion-Australia Intercultural Exchange Program

CULTURE

- MAYAZ PRO: Indian Ocean artistic exchange and professionalization program

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Advocacy for sustainable small-scale fishing in the Indian Ocean

BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

- Indian Ocean Marine Education Area
- HOME - Understanding the use of marine habitats by sea turtles for a better understanding of conservation issues in the Indian Ocean
- CROWN - Coordination of the sustainable whale and dolphin watching network from the IORA
- MYSTRAL - Study and conservation of baleen whales in the tropical and southern Indian Ocean region

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

- LIGHTEN-IO - Leadership Initiative for Green Hydrogen Transition Energy Network in the Indian Ocean
- PROP'OMIEL - The Development of New Agricultural Products for the Preservation of Mangroves and Tropical Island Forests
- AIProcessControl - Artificial intelligence-based adaptive control for physical et biological processes
- ATOS-ARRI - Atmosphere and Satellite Optical Telecommunications Australia Meeting Industrial Research
- Networking of training and research in computer science and mathematics between Réunion, Mayotte, and Madagascar
- Implementation of CIRAD's regional cooperation program for 2023-2026
- Regional Research Grants
- RESIST OI : Antibiotic resistance in the southwestern Indian Ocean: A One Health approach to studying emergence, spread dynamics, and therapeutic alternatives
- Predict & Reverse HGPO
- IST AUSRUN : Improving screening and antibiotic resistance research
- Operating SEYWOL

MOT de la PRÉSIDENTE



The European INTERREG Indian Ocean program, managed by the Regional Council of Reunion island for over twenty years, **enables Réunion and Mayotte to integrate into their regional environment and collectively respond to multiple common challenges** such as climate change, food sovereignty, and ocean protection.

This political and operational cooperation is all the more important given the **current turbulent international context**: intensifying conflicts and instability in several regions, rising tensions between major powers, mass population displacement, and humanitarian crises.

Our Indian Ocean region is no longer on the periphery of these issues; it is at the heart of them. Therefore, more than ever, the Interreg VI OI cooperation program is a powerful tool for co-development, enabling us to strengthen exchanges with neighboring countries and thus promote regional stability and resilience in the face of crises.

Following its operational launch in 2024, the Interreg VI IO program is now up and running with **38 projects planned, 24 of which are presented in this second newsletter.***

This program has also helped to strengthen ties with our partner countries, with, for example, the official designation of an Interreg focal point for Mozambique, the holding of the first national workshop in Mauritius last March, and the recent accession of Sri Lanka.

Similarly, thanks to support from the European Commission and the French government, the **Regional Council of Reunion island is preparing to manage its first NDICI (formerly EDF - European Development Fund) budget**, which will be integrated into the Interreg VI program. This €5 million budget will support co-development projects, financed by both the NDICI and Interreg, with the aim of strengthening the impact of these operations on local territories and populations.

A dedicated call for projects has been launched and focuses on the theme of climate resilience, divided into two major areas: sustainable food security and risk management.

Huguette BELLO,
Présidente de la Région Réunion

* Steering committees from December 2024 to May 2025.

TRAINING / EXCHANGES

International Solidarity Volunteering program - Regional Council of Reunion island - 2024

General objective : To strengthen the technical and administrative capacities of host organizations through targeted technical support, skills development, knowledge exchange, and the acquisition of new expertise.

PROJECT : The 2024 program includes 10 international solidarity volunteer assignments in the fields of education, local, economic, and cultural development. These missions are distributed across Comoros, India, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, and Seychelles. Volunteers, committed for a minimum of 12 months, provide technical assistance and contribute to building the capacities of host organizations. They support regional cooperation, the implementation of development projects, and the strengthening of educational and economic partnerships. These missions also promote exchange between Réunion Island and Indian Ocean countries, while offering volunteers a meaningful and enriching international professional experience..

REFERENCES : This project was selected under Action Sheet 3.2, «Support for Volunteering in the Indian Ocean,» part of Priority 3 : “Strengthening skills, culture, and tourism to support economic and social development”..

PARTNERSHIP

SEYCHELLES : Alliance française of Seychelles

COMOROS : Ministry of Education of Comoros, UCCIA of Comoros

INDIA : Alliance française of Pondichéry

MADAGASCAR : Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie

MAURITIUS : Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), Association Porteurs d’Images, Jardin de Pamplemousse
Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical

MOZAMBIQUE : Instructive University of Maputo

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	259 370,02 €	45 771,18 €
	546 418,53 €	

TRAINING / EXCHANGES

International solidarity volunteering program - Territoire de l'Ouest (Ouest coast Territory of Reunion island) 2024

General objective : To strengthen the professional skills of the international volunteer (VSI) by combining sustainable development with human well-being. The volunteer will also support the National Waste Agency in improving strategies for waste management and prevention, as well as in developing an education unit for promoting best practices.

PROJECT : This project is part of a partnership between the Western Territory, the CISCO of Sainte-Marie (Madagascar), and France Volontaires. It involves an international solidarity volunteering () assignment of at least 12 months, focused on education and the environment. The volunteer will provide technical support to the host organization, lead awareness-raising activities on environmental protection, develop educational tools, and coordinate cooperation projects. The mission aims to strengthen local capacities, encourage exchanges between stakeholders in the Indian Ocean region, and offer a meaningful international professional experience.

RÉFÉRENCES : This project was selected under Action Sheet 3.2 «Support for Volunteering in the Indian Ocean,» which falls within Priority 3: "Strengthening skills, culture, and tourism to support economic and social development".

PARTNERSHIP

MADAGASCAR : School District (CISCO) of the Ministry of National Educatio

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	FEDER 85%	TERRITOIRE DE L'OUEST 15%
	26 180,00€	4 620,00 €
	54 190,00 €	

TRAINING / EXCHANGES

International Solidarity Volunteering program – Commune de La Possession (Possession City) 2024

General objective : To strengthen the professional skills of the international volunteer by linking sustainable development with human well-being. The volunteer will also support the National Waste Agency in improving strategies for waste management and prevention, as well as in developing an educational unit promoting best practices.

PROJECT : This project is carried out in partnership with the Municipality of La Possession, the City of Victoria (Seychelles), the National Waste Agency, and France Volontaires. It consists of a 12-month (minimum) international solidarity volunteer assignment focused on education and awareness of best waste management practices. The volunteer will provide technical support to the host organization, contribute to communication efforts, develop tools, and help establish an educational unit. The mission aims to strengthen local capacities and foster cooperation between stakeholders in the Indian Ocean region. It also offers a meaningful and enriching professional experience abroad.

REFERENCES : This project was selected under Action Sheet 3.2 “Support for Volunteering in the Indian Ocean,” part of Priority 3: “Strengthening skills, culture, and tourism for economic and social development”.

PARTNERSHIP

SEYCHELLES : City of Victoria - Landscape and Waste Management Agency (LWMA)

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF- ETC (INTERREG) 85%	COMMUNE DE LA POSSESSION 15%
	30 464,00 €	5 376,00 €
	59 214,00 €	

TRAINING / EXCHANGES

International Solidarity Volunteering program – Reunion Island Departmental Council - 2024

General objective : To support partner host organizations, promote youth engagement in social and environmental challenges through human development and civic education, and foster professional opportunities for beneficiaries in the Indian Ocean region.

PROJECT : The 2024 program includes 16 international solidarity volunteer assignments in the fields of culture, education, teaching, and Francophonie. These missions will take place in Comoros, India, Madagascar, Mauritius, Tanzania, Seychelles, and Kenya. Volunteers, committed for a minimum of 12 months, provide technical support to host organizations, develop partnerships, and lead educational and language-focused activities. The objective is to strengthen local capacities, encourage exchanges between Réunion Island and Indian Ocean countries, and offer volunteers a rewarding professional experience abroad.

REFERENCES : This project was selected under Action Sheet 3.2, «Support for Volunteering in the Indian Ocean,» part of Priority 3: “Strengthening skills, culture, and tourism to support economic and social development”.

PARTNERSHIP

SEYCHELLES : Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation, Alliance Française of Seychelles

COMOROS: Alliance Française of Anjouan, NGO Toimaya Ya Maoudou

INDIA: Alliance Française of Pondicherry

MADAGASCAR: Alliance Française of Antananarivo, Alliance Française of Toliara, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, NGO Manda, Alliance Française of Mahajanga

MAURITIUS: Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), University of the Mascarenes

TANZANIA: Alliance Française of Dar es Salaam

KENYA: Alliance Française of Nairobi

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	DÉPARTEMENT DE LA RÉUNION 15%
	436 833,36 €	77 088,24 €
	922 835,60 €	

TRAINING / EXCHANGES

Regional Educational and Professional Cooperation Program of the Network of Agricultural Vocational Schools in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (REAP AAOI) – 2024

General objective : To pool and strengthen the skills of participants from the agricultural vocational schools within the REAP AAOI network, as well as stakeholders in the agricultural sector, in areas of high strategic importance.

PROJECT : The cooperation program led by EPLEFPA FORMA TERRA is structured around three main components: learner mobility within agricultural and agroecological projects, capacity-building for staff of REAP AAOI institutions, and the organization of an annual steering committee to energize regional cooperation. The program aims to enhance the competencies of agricultural stakeholders in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean in key areas such as food sovereignty, resilience to climate change, and sustainable development. It includes six actions implemented in Mauritius, Madagascar, Rodrigues, and Réunion Island, promoting professional mobility, knowledge exchange, and the development of locally adapted agricultural strategies.

REFERENCES : This project was selected under the 2024 Call for Expressions of Interest as part of Action Sheet 3.1: "Training and Knowledge Sharing in the Indian Ocean," which falls under Priority 3: "Strengthening skills, culture, and tourism for economic and social development".

PARTNERSHIP

MADAGASCAR : Ministry of Agriculture, EFTA Pro of Ambanja, ING Training Center - Aina Enfance et Avenir

MAURITIUS: Collège du Bon et Perpétuel Secours Fatima, Collège de la Confiance - Beau Bassin Rose Hill, Faculty of Agriculture - University of Mauritius

RODRIGUES: Frère Rémi Agricultural Training Center

SEYCHELLES: Seychelles Institute of Training

COMOROS: National Horticultural Center

MOZAMBIQUE: Licungo University - Faculty of Sciences, Quelimane

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL REUNION ISLAND 15%
	95 319,08€	16 821,01 €
	112 140,09 €	

TRAINING / EXCHANGES

Improving the Quality of French Language Education in Kenya (PAMEFK-2)

General objective : Strengthening the language skills and qualifications of French language trainers and teachers in Kenya.

PROJECT : France Education International, under the supervision of the Ministry of National Education and Youth, is a public administrative body. It comprises a central service based at Sèvres and a local centre on Reunion Island (CL FEI), which was set up in 2000, the only overseas centre of the national establishment. To support the teaching of French in the countries of the Indian Ocean and Southern and Eastern Africa, the Centre Local France Education International (CL-FEI) offers training courses in French for teachers and students of French, and organises training courses in the teaching of French as a foreign language (FLE). The operation entitled “Improving the quality of French language teaching in Kenya” (PAMEFK-2) is a continuation of PAMEFK-1, co-funded by INTERREG V and Reunion Council, which consists of :

- A continuing education programme to improve language skills, with certification in French as a foreign language, French for specific purposes and French for university purposes;
- accreditation for the French language studies diploma and advanced French language diploma examinations;
- consolidating a pool of trainers.

The actions target the training of future teachers and teachers of French in order to strengthen their linguistic skills as well as other skills relevant to their professional careers, and to ensure the quality of their teaching. The training courses will focus on capacity building, linguistic reinforcement and the design of teaching materials, among other things. The ultimate aim is to train 260 current and future teachers of French at Kenyan universities.

REFERENCES : Ce projet a été sélectionné dans le cadre de l’appel à manifestation d’intérêt Interreg VI océan Indien lancé le 15 décembre 2023 – fiche-action 3.1 « Formations et partages d’expériences dans l’océan Indien ».

PARTNERSHIP

RÉUNION : FRANCE EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL-CENTRE LOCAL LA RÉUNION (PORTEUR DE PROJET)
KENYA : KENYATTA UNIVERSITY, KENYA MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, FRENCH EMBASSY IN KENYA.

This project was selected under the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest which closed on December 15, 2023 : 3.1 - “Training and experience-sharing in the Indian Ocean”.

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	261 072,40 €	46 071,60 €
	307 144,80 €	

TRAINING / EXCHANGES

Reunion-Southern Australia intercultural exchange programme

General objective : Strengthening cooperation between teachers by sharing knowledge, promoting international openness through mobility, and encouraging educational innovation using digital tools.

PROJECT : The project is structured around 2 actions: Virtual projects for the 2023-2024 school year and Australia-Reunion mobility (Action 1) / Forecasting virtual projects for the 2024-2025 school year and Reunion-Australia mobility (Action 2). The first action consisted mainly of a virtual exchange between Reunionese and Australian high school students on a 'Gigipad' digital platform, covering several themes (well-being, citizenship, environment, etc.). The aim was to enable Australian high school students to study French. Following on from action 1, the second action continues the educational activities provided in French and English. This time, it enables students from the Antoine de Saint-Exupéry High School to practise their English.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on 26 June 2024 - action sheet 3.1 "Training and experience sharing in the Indian Ocean".

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Antoine de Saint-Exupéry High School (project owner)

AUSTRALIA : Glenunga International High School - Reynella East College

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	48 766,78 €	8 605,90 €
	57 372,68 €	

ECONOMY

MAYAZ PRO: Indian Ocean Artistic Exchange and Professionalization Program

General objective : To affirm the role of culture and sport in the economic and social development of the Indian Ocean region by structuring exchanges, enriching creative production, capitalizing on cultural resources, and developing sustainable and dynamic partnerships between artists, cultural, and sports professionals. The aim is to strengthen the sense of belonging to the Indianocéanic space.

PROJECT : The MAYAZ PRO project aims to develop an attractive and dynamic regional artistic scene from a South-South perspective, by strengthening the capacities and the shared identity within the Indian Ocean area. This will be achieved through the mobility of cultural operators, training, professional networking, and the exchange of best practices. The project is structured around five complementary actions, resulting from collaborative discussions initiated between partners since 2021:

Action 1: Cooperative methodology

Action 2: Professional networking (Meet-ups in La Réunion, Madagascar, and Mauritius)

Action 3: Training in artistic critique and critical writing

Action 4: Residency for introduction to digital creation

Action 5 : Communication

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on October 10, 2023 – Action Sheet 3.3: “Strengthening cultural, artistic, and sports exchanges in the Indian Ocean” – Component 2, which aims to affirm the role of culture and sport in the economic and social development of the Indian Ocean region through structured exchanges, enriched creative practices, capitalization of cultural resources, and the development of sustainable and dynamic partnerships between artists, cultural and sports actors, thereby strengthening the sense of belonging to the Indianocéanic community.

PARTNERS

RÉUNION : Association Documents d’Artistes Réunion (porteur de projet)

MADAGASCAR : Fondation H

MAURITIUS : House of Digital Art

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	132 212,56€	23 331,63 €
	155 544,19 €	

ECONOMY

Advocacy for sustainable small-scale fishing in the Indian Ocean

General objective : Establishing sustainable small-scale fishing in the Indian Ocean.

PROJECT : The Federation of artisanal fishermen of the Indian Ocean (FPAOI), created in 2015 and based in Reunion Island, brings together around forty associations of artisanal fishermen from several countries in the region (Comoros, Reunion, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles). It aims to defend artisanal fishing, which is proving to be of great economic importance to small-scale fishermen. It also promotes sustainable fishing and strengthens regional cooperation in the face of challenges such as overfishing and climate change.

The Regional Committee for Marine Fisheries and Fish Farming (CRPMEM) is supporting a project to strengthen cohesion between members, draw up a roadmap for 2024-2029, and take stock of small-scale fishing in the area: Advocacy for sustainable small-scale fishing in the Indian Ocean.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on 10 October 2023 - action sheet 1.7 "Development of cooperation in the maritime field".

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : The Regional Committee for Marine Fisheries and Fish Farming (CRPMEM) of Reunion. (project owner).

COMOROS, MADAGASCAR, MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES : The Federation of artisanal fishermen of the Indian Ocean (FPAOI)

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	102 535,48 €	18 094,50 €
	120 629, 98 €	

BIODIVERSITY

AMEO-Indian Ocean Educational Marine Area

General objective : Strengthen the resilience and sustainable development of territories

PROJECT : The AMEO project aims to enhance conservation efforts within Educational Marine Areas (EMAs) across all island states of the southwestern Indian Ocean. An EMA is a small natural area managed participatively by students under the guidance of their teachers and a supporting organization. Through a «sea council,» students make decisions regarding their EMA, which helps them understand environmental issues, build a connection with their territory, and become advocates among local users and decision-makers.

The project is structured around three main actions :

- Discovering coral reefs and associated ecosystems: training teachers and facilitators in reef biology and EMA methodology, supported by a regional network. Students define their EMAs, identify local conservation challenges, and present their findings during sea councils involving community members.
- Acting for coral reef conservation: implementing conservation measures decided by the students, ranging from biodiversity protection to waste reduction, while assessing their environmental and social impact. Exchanges between islands are facilitated throughout this phase.
- Cooperating for joint reef management: strengthening inter-island collaboration through a digital exchange platform, a collaborative storytelling project, exchange missions, and local and regional feedback sessions at the end of each school year and the project.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on June 24, 2024 – Action Sheet 2.4: “Biodiversity protection project”.

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Regional Biodiversity Agency

MAURITIUS : Adolescent Non-Formal Education Network (ANFEN)

MADAGASCAR: University of Toliara - Institute of Fisheries and Marine Sciences (IH.SM)

COMOROS: University of the Comoros Mohéli Marine Park

SEYCHELLES : Ministry of Education in Seychelles

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	931 977,66 €	164 466,66 €
	1 096 444,32 €	

BIODIVERSITY

HOME - Understanding the use of marine habitats by sea turtles for better management of conservation challenges in the Indian Ocean

General objective : Strengthen the resilience and sustainable development of territories

PROJECT : The HOME project (Habitat Observation for Marine Ecology) supports marine conservation policies in the Indian Ocean, with a specific focus on sea turtles—iconic and protected species of regional biodiversity. It aims to improve the understanding of how green and hawksbill turtles use marine habitats, particularly during little-known life stages that occur at sea.

To achieve this, the project emphasizes the acquisition, standardization, sharing, and enhancement of data, while integrating recent advances in molecular biology and tracking technologies. It addresses major knowledge gaps related to population demography, identification of critical habitats, migratory behaviors, and the fundamental ecological needs of these species. The project is implemented across key territories in the Indian Ocean: La Réunion, Mauritius, Madagascar, Mayotte, Comoros, and the Éparses Islands. It seeks to reinforce regional cooperation and coordinated actions at a scale that matches the wide geographic distribution of migratory sea turtles.

The project is structured around three main components:

- **Population Demography Studies:** monitoring of green and hawksbill turtles in coastal habitats, acquisition of new data, improvement of data storage tools, and support for local stakeholders.
- **Marine Habitat Use and Behavior Analysis:** understanding spatial strategies and ecological needs, especially for lesser-known life stages at sea.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Communication:** promoting project results and methodologies among managers, scientists, and stakeholder networks to ensure they are integrated into conservation and spatial planning efforts.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on June 24, 2024 – Action Sheet 2.4: “Biodiversity protection project”.

PARTNERS

MAURITIUS: Attitude Foundation

MAYOTTE: Oulanga Association Na Nyamba, « Le jardin Maoré »

MADAGASCAR: Céta mada Madagascar National Park's (MNP)

COMOROS: Association for the social economic development of Itsamia- ADSEI

TAAF: Éparses Islands

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	637 929,97 €	112 575,88 €
	750 505,85 €	

BIODIVERSITY

CROWN – Coordination of the sustainable whale and dolphin watching network from the IORA

General objective : Strengthen the resilience and sustainable development of territories

PROJECT : The CROWN project is structured around three main actions. The first action involves coordinating exchanges within the Sustainable Whale and Dolphin Watching Network (SWWN) of IORA. It begins with a mission to meet with IORA representatives to introduce the project's stakeholders and their roles, discuss the history of the network and its members, define a collaboration framework by specifying expectations, priority actions, and sustainability pathways, and then establish a roadmap with an action calendar. This action also includes monitoring and sharing emerging publications on responsible cetacean observation with network members, maintaining exchanges with historical partners, introducing new technical contacts from La Réunion, and initiating the Whale Heritage Area (WHA) certification process for La Réunion in collaboration with the World Cetacean Alliance (WCA).

The second action aims to implement sharing activities within the SWWN. It includes coordinating, writing, and distributing an annual newsletter to highlight the actors and their actions, revive exchanges, and consolidate shared written resources. It also involves organizing an annual thematic meeting via videoconference to strengthen exchanges, increase visibility of actors and initiatives, and share visual resources such as videos.

The third action focuses on promoting the sharing activities carried out within the network. It emphasizes the commitment to address the lack of legal framework for whale watching activities to encourage responsible practices. This action also involves sharing the network's progress, feedback from participating countries, and successful approaches to ensure the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of the activity. Finally, it includes meeting with and gathering information from member countries about their local practices to advance the regional approach.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on June 24, 2024 – Action Sheet 2.4: "Biodiversity protection project."

PARTNERS

MAURITIUS : Green Attitude Foundation

MAYOTTE : Ceta'Maora

AUSTRALIA : CETREC WA-Marine Research

KENYA : Watanu Marine Association

MADAGASCAR : Ceta mada

MOZAMBIQUE : MAR-Zavora Marine Lab

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	39 097,49 €	6 899,56 €
	45 997,05 €	

RESEARCH

MYSTRAL :

General objective : Strengthen the resilience and sustainable development of territories

PROJECT : The project MYSTRAL aims to improve knowledge about humpback whale movements in the Indian Ocean through two main activities. The first focuses on studying the connectivity between breeding sites using photo-identification and passive acoustic monitoring. Photo-identification involves photographing the underside of the whale's tail fluke, which has unique, lasting markings for each individual. This method supports data collection across regional partners and contributes to a shared identification catalog to assess population abundance and connectivity. Data will be gathered at breeding sites such as Reunion Island, Mauritius, Madagascar, Mayotte, the scattered islands, and Kenya's Watamu region, with additional contributions from Western Australia and Mozambique. Passive acoustic monitoring records whale songs to track male presence and study population connectivity based on song composition. The project will also study two new breeding sites, Europa and Juan de Nova Islands, in the Mozambique Channel, to better understand whale movements there. Data collection with hydrophones will occur during the 2025 and 2026 winters, with partner organizations responsible for deploying and recovering equipment. Analyses will be performed by specialized researchers and trained partners using software tools.

The second activity focuses on the use of the French Southern Territories by humpback whales to better understand their migratory routes and feeding grounds, which remain poorly known due to the limited duration of satellite tag attachments in previous studies. This will be addressed during a research campaign aboard the Marion Dufresne II in early 2026 in partnership with LOCEAN and NOAA experts, who will deploy satellite tags and collect skin samples for genetic identification. Acoustic data collected with hydrophones in the Crozet and Kerguelen archipelagos will also be analyzed to assess seasonal whale presence and contribute to regional connectivity studies.

The project also includes actions to improve knowledge of cetacean species diversity in the southwestern Indian Ocean and adjacent subantarctic zones. This involves visual and acoustic surveys aboard opportunistic vessels, coordinated by GLOBICE through the NeMMO network, which has documented 24 cetacean species through numerous observations.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on June 24, 2024 – Action Sheet 2.4: "Biodiversity protection project."

PARTNERS

MAURITIUS : Green Attitude Foundation

MAYOTTE : Ceta'Maora

AUSTRALIA : CETREC WA-Marine Research

KENYA : Watanu Marine Association

MADAGASCAR : Ceta mada

MOZAMBIQUE : MAR-Zavora Marine Lab

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	374 985,95 €	66 173,99 €
	441 159,94 €	

RESEARCH

LIGHTEN-IO : Leadership Initiative for Green Hydrogen Transition Energy Network in the Indian Ocean

General objective : To consolidate collaborative research and economic cooperation in order to develop and improve research and innovation capacities and the use of cutting-edge technologies in the Indian Ocean.

PROJECT : Against a backdrop of high population growth and limited access to electricity in the islands of the south-west Indian Ocean (excluding Reunion and Mayotte), the production of green hydrogen by electrolysis of water offers a sustainable and cost-effective solution, in line with the United Nations' sustainable development objective of 'clean and affordable energy for all'.

This project aims to help set up a regional network for the development of green hydrogen in the territories of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the other countries in the INTERREG programme. This will involve meeting four targeted objectives, including leading a network of players and generating data (on climate, land use, etc.), with the aim of combining regional initiatives and encouraging innovation and research.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on 10 October 2023 - action sheet 1.3 'Networking research players, sharing scientific knowledge and capitalising on, disseminating and popularising research results'.

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : University of Reunion (project owner)

MAURITIUS : University of Mauritius - University of Mascareignes

MADAGASCAR : Antananarivo Higher Institute of Technology

COMOROS : University of Comoros

SEYCHELLES : Seychelles Meteorological Authority

KENYA : Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Nairobi

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	509 098,80 €	89 840,98 €
598 939,78 €		

RESEARCH

PROP'OMIEL : Development of New Agricultural Products for the Preservation of Mangroves and Tropical Island Forests

General objective : To identify and develop the beekeeping resources of the mangroves of the Seychelles, the Comoros and Reunion. To inventory the melliferous species of the Seychelles and Comoros, to assess the potential for propolis production in these areas and on Reunion Island, and to characterise the bioactive compounds present in these products.

PROJECT : People in the Indian Ocean region (Reunion, Seychelles, Comoros) are increasingly relying on and consuming local bee products, attracting interest from a variety of industries because of their unique qualities derived from biodiversity hotspots. The « Prop'OMiel » project aims to fill the gap in scientific data on honey and propolis from this region in order to improve knowledge, promote their value and support local products.

The Prop'OMiel project aims to reconcile ecological protection and economic development by developing beekeeping resources from the tropical forests and mangroves of Reunion, the Seychelles and the Comoros. The project focuses on the production of two new products with high added value: mangrove honey and propolis. By encouraging sustainable, high-quality beekeeping, it supports the conservation of local ecosystems while promoting research into natural molecules with innovative biological properties.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on 10 October 2023 - action sheet 1.1 « Partnership research projects between stakeholders

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : GIP CYCLOTRON Reunion Indian Ocean (project owner)

COMOROS : University of Comoros - Comorian Cooperative of Beekeepers

SEYCHELLES : Beekeepers Association of Seychelles - Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS) - Agriculture department - Ministry of Agriculture Climate Change and Environnement - Ministry of Investment, Entrepreneurship and Industry

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	1 175 500,37 €	207 441,24 €
	1 382 941,61 €	

RESEARCH

AIProcessControl : Artificial intelligence-based adaptative control for physical et biological processes

General objective : Contribute to energy efficiency by recovering agricultural waste. The project aims to provide economic support to biotech companies and improve the efficiency and quality of processes by reducing operational and energy costs. One of the key objectives is to have a multidimensional impact (industrial performance, promotion of the circular economy, contribution to environmental objectives).

PROJECT : In a context where energy challenges meet technological advances, this collaborative project with the Vellore Institute of Technology explores the use of artificial intelligence in the control of biological processes, in order to enhance the efficiency, sustainability and automation of the production of biomolecules from microbial fermentations.

The aim of the project is to transform the modelling of biological processes by integrating intelligent AI-based control systems capable of adapting in real time to improve the yield, quality and energy efficiency of fermentations. It aims to create a link between fundamental research and industrial applications. By facilitating the use of agricultural waste as a renewable carbon source, the project supports the circular economy and helps to combat climate change.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on 10 October 2023 - action sheet 1.1 "Partnership research projects between stakeholders in the zone on common issues".

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : University of Reunion (project owner)

INDIA : Vellore Institute of Technology

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	254 976,96 €	44 995,94 €
	299 972,90 €	

RESEARCH

ATOS-ARRI : Atmosphere and Optical Satellite Communications Australia-Reunion Industrial Research

General objective : Monitoring and forecasting the state of the atmosphere for optical satellite telecommunications (OST) in order to improve existing services such as Internet access, land mapping and climate risk observation.

PROJECT : Optical space telecommunications are one of the new technologies for innovative communications (higher communications throughput than radio, no need for a broadcast cone). This project aims to improve our knowledge of optical reception by integrating the atmospheric conditions between the station and the satellite. The variables will be measured, in conjunction with the Australian University, to reduce their impact through the design of algorithms, data management and analysis techniques. This work will establish best practices and methodologies to facilitate site identification and the development of an Optical Ground Station (OGS).

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on 10 October 2023 - action sheet 1.1 « Partnership research projects between stakeholders in the zone on common issues ».

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : REUNIWATT (project owner)
AUSTRALIA : Australian National University (ANU)

	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 68%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 12%	REUNIWATT 20 %
INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	376 134,19 €	66 376,63 €	110 627,70 €
	553 138,52 €		

RESEARCH

Networking training and research in computer science and mathematics

General objective : To capitalise on, pool and disseminate knowledge in mathematics and computer science within a regional research network. Secondly, to harmonise and strengthen Masters and PhD courses in Reunion, Mayotte and Madagascar.

PROJECT : The project has three complementary focuses. The first concerns artificial intelligence, with the aim of designing hybrid classification methods combining supervised and unsupervised approaches, while forming an interdisciplinary team in mathematics and computer science. The second area aims to develop a methodology for the development of certified components for blockchains, by mobilising a variety of scientific skills and structuring training at master's and doctoral level. Lastly, the third area involves improving teacher training in mathematics and computer science, integrating local languages and cultures to create motivating and culturally appropriate teaching resources.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on 10 October 2023 - action sheet 1.3 « Networking stakeholders, sharing scientific knowledge and capitalising on, disseminating and popularising research results ».

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : University of Reunion (project owner)

MADAGASCAR : University Antananarivo - University of Antsiranana - University of Fianarantsoa - University of Toamisia

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	421 640,41 €	74 407,06 €
	496 047,07 €	

Les chercheurs de Mayotte sont rattachés au Laboratoire d'Informatique et de Mathématiques de l'Université de La Réunion.

RESEARCH

Implementation of CIRAD's regional cooperation program 2023-2026

General objective : Providing practical solutions to health and food crises in the Indian Ocean. Meet society's expectations by ensuring that actions are locally owned. Make a sustainable commitment to mitigating and adapting to climate change, preserving the environment, and producing and preserving high-quality food.

PROJECT : In the south-west Indian Ocean, the implementation of sustainable agricultural development is essential to meet the growing food challenges. The region, which is characterised by its insularity, is subject to severe constraints linked to climate change, loss of biodiversity, health crises, demographic growth and heterogeneous trade standards. The Covid-19 crisis has highlighted the need for greater regional cooperation to guarantee food security, promote regional self-sufficiency and develop a complementary agricultural economy between the islands.

The project aims to accelerate the agro-ecological transition and make the most of natural resources as part of a circular bio-economy, through 7 actions : La plateforme régionale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (PRERAD-OI) ;

- Regional platform in agronomic research for development ;
- Epidemiosurveillance and biocontrol & Prevention of infectious risks ;
- Preservation of agro-biodiversity and development of agricultural plant genetic resources;
- Improving food safety;
- Optimised management of cropping systems for sustainable agriculture;
- Co-design of circular agri-food systems based on livestock farming.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on 10 October 2023 - action sheet 1.2 « Structuring research programme for the Indian Ocean region ».

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Centre for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) (project owner) - Food, Agriculture and Forestry Department (DAAF) - Network of professional agricultural establishments in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (REAP AAOI) - Reunion Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives

COMOROS : NGO Dahari - University of Comoros - National Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment (INRAPE) - Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment

MADAGASCAR : National Centre for Applied Research in Rural Development (FOFIFA) - University of Antananarivo - School of Agricultural Sciences (ESSA) - Advice, experimentation and training on fruit and vegetables (FIFATA) - Ministry of agriculture, farming and fisheries - NGO Development Initiative Union of Comoros and Madagascar

MAURITIUS : Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute - Chamber of Agriculture - Ministry of Agribusiness and Food Safety - United nation development program (UNDP) - Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute - University of Mauritius - Business OI

RODRIGUES : Agriculture Committee

SEYCHELLES : Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and the Environment

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC INTERREG 68%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 12%
	5 357 580, 99 €	945 455,47 €
	6 303 036,46 €	

RESEARCH

Regional Research Grants

General objective : To support and encourage high-level research in the countries of the Indian Ocean region, and to assist students from Reunion Island, Mayotte and the countries concerned in their doctoral research

PROJECT : The aim is to award a Regional Research Grant to support PhD work by students enrolled in universities in the countries and territories of the Indian Ocean, on subjects of common interest to the region, such as the sustainable health of vulnerable populations, inclusive Creole societies in a multicultural context, resilience in the face of climatic, geological and man-made risks, and the deployment of decentralised, low-carbon energy systems in isolated territories.

For this session, 7 students will be eligible for research grants (1 from Seychelles, 1 from Mozambique, 1 from Mauritius and 4 from Madagascar).

REFERENCES : This project has been selected as part of action sheet 1.4 « Regional Research Grant ».

PARTNERSHIP

REUNION ISLAND : Reunion Council (project owner)

SEYCHELLES : University of Seychelles

MOZAMBIQUE : University of Mozambique

MAURITIUS : University of Mauritius

MADAGASCAR : University of Madagascar

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC (INTERREG) 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	262 395,00 €	46 305,00 €
	308 700,00 €	

RESEARCH

RESIST OI - Antibioresistance dans le Sud-Ouest de l'océan Indien : Approche One Health pour l'étude de l'émergence, la dynamique de diffusion et des alternatives thérapeutiques

General Objective : Strengthen collaborative research and economic cooperation to promote shared solutions and value creation at the regional level.

PROJECT : The RESIST-OI project aims to combat antimicrobial resistance, a major public health issue described by the WHO as a «silent pandemic.» Certain bacteria, such as carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE), have become resistant to nearly all antibiotics, making infections increasingly difficult to treat. The southwest Indian Ocean region (SOOI), particularly Réunion Island, is especially vulnerable due to frequent population movements and medical evacuations between islands.

This project, based on a One Health approach, seeks to better understand how resistant bacteria spread between humans, animals, and the environment. It brings together several territories in the region (Madagascar, Comoros, Mayotte, Mauritius, Seychelles) through coordinated surveillance, genomic analysis, and investigation of resistance mechanisms. An innovative component also explores the use of bacteriophages—viruses that can destroy resistant bacteria—as a potential alternative to antibiotics.

In parallel, RESIST-OI includes training programs for young researchers in the region, the creation of biobanks accessible to the scientific community, and active communication with health authorities to support future public health policies in the fight against antimicrobial resistance.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on October 10, 2023 – Action Sheet 1.1: “Collaborative research projects between regional stakeholders on shared challenges.”

PARTNERS

MAURITIUS: Central Health Laboratory

MAYOTTE: Mayotte Hospital Center

SEYCHELLES: Ministry of Health

COMOROS: General Directorate of Health, El Maarouf Hospital

MADAGASCAR: Pasteur Institute, Mérieux Foundation, Directorate of Veterinary Services (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock)

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC INTERREG 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	1 459 356,75 €	257 533,54 €
	1 716 890,29 €	

RESEARCH

Predict & Reverse HGPO

General Objective : Strengthen collaborative research and economic cooperation to promote shared solutions and value creation at the regional level.

PROJECT : The University Hospital of Reunion Island, in partnership with an institute in Australia, is leading a research project to improve the detection of prediabetes and type 2 diabetes. The test currently used (called OGTT) is long, uncomfortable, and not very practical. The goal of the project is to replace it with a simpler and faster method, such as a basic fasting blood test.

To achieve this, researchers are analyzing specific molecules in the blood, especially lipids and other substances linked to fat tissue. Using this data, they are developing artificial intelligence tools that can predict whether a person is at risk of developing diabetes—without needing to go through complex testing.

The project has two main parts. The first, called PREDICT, aims to build these diagnostic tools. Patients in La Réunion are taking part in a two-year study, with samples being analyzed both locally and in Australia. The second part, REVERSE, focuses on understanding how to improve or stabilize the health of at-risk individuals by studying the impact of lifestyle factors—such as sleep, diet, and physical activity—on the progression of diabetes.

In short, this project aims to simplify diabetes diagnosis and identify practical ways to prevent or delay the onset of the disease.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on October 10, 2023 – Action Sheet 1.1: “Collaborative research projects between regional stakeholders on shared challenges.”

PARTNERS

AUSTRALIA : Melbourne Baker Institute

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC INTERREG 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	701 482, 05 €	123 790,95 €
	825 273,00 €	

RESEARCH

IST-AUSRUN

General Objective : Strengthen collaborative research and economic cooperation to promote shared solutions and value creation at the regional level.

PROJECT : This French–Australian collaborative research project investigates several aspects of HPV and Mycoplasma genitalium infections in the Réunion Island population. It is structured into five studies: The first study examines the prevalence of high-risk HPV genotypes (those covered by GARDASIL 9®) in young women (16–30 years) and in men who have sex with men, both screened for Chlamydia trachomatis. The second is a randomized cross-over trial assessing the concordance and acceptability of self-sampling for anal HPV screening in people living with HIV. The third study explores the genetic basis for severe HPV infections by identifying rare immune-related variants in patients, as part of a national cohort on genetic predisposition to infections. The fourth focuses on antimicrobial resistance, measuring M. genitalium resistance to macrolides and fluoroquinolones in STI clinic attendees. The final component is a systematic review and meta-analysis evaluating M. genitalium’s clinical contribution to syndromes like urethritis, cervicitis, prostatitis, and salpingitis.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on October 10, 2023 – Action Sheet I.I: “Partnership research projects between stakeholders about shared challenges.”

PARTENARIAT

AUSTRALIA : Kirby Institute and the New South Wales University

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC INTERREG 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	768 172,17 €	135 559,80 €
	991 518,87 €	

RESEARCH

Biological Control of Vector-Borne Diseases and Development of an Alternative Strategy Against the Tiger Mosquito *Aedes albopictus*

General Objective : To develop an alternative strategy to control the tiger mosquito *Aedes albopictus* and to validate a mosquito population control method that addresses all aspects of the issue through a multi-level approach aligned with the principles of the «One Health» methodology.

PROJECT : The «Operating Seywol» project is implemented in collaboration with the Seychelles Ministry of Health and the University of Seychelles. It forms part of broader efforts in the biological control of vector-borne diseases, with a primary goal of developing an alternative strategy for controlling *Aedes albopictus*, a known vector of dengue, Zika, and chikungunya viruses.

This project aims to design an innovative method to combat *Aedes albopictus* and to validate a strategy for reducing mosquito populations by adopting a comprehensive and integrated approach. This approach is consistent with the «One Health» framework, which considers the human, animal, and environmental dimensions of public health challenges.

REFERENCES : This project was selected as part of the Interreg VI Indian Ocean call for expressions of interest launched on October 10, 2023 – Action Sheet 1.1: “Collaborative research projects between regional stakeholders on shared challenges.”

PARTNERS

SEYCHELLES : Ministry of Health (Insectarium - Vector Control Team), University of Seychelles.

INTERREG VI Indian Ocean Program	ERDF-ETC INTERREG 85%	REGIONAL COUNCIL 15%
	747 048,96€	131 832,17 €
	878 881,13 €	